



# Thatcher disbands think tank and delays Police Bill

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

The Central Policy Review Staff, the Cabinet's "think tank", set up in 1971, by Mr Edward Heath, is to be disbanded at the end of July.

Mrs Margaret Thatcher has decided, after consultation yesterday with her Cabinet colleagues, that "the purposes for which the CPRS was set up are now being met satisfactorily in other ways," a Downing Street statement said last night.

Earlier yesterday, the new Cabinet, meeting to complete the detail of the Queen's Speech, decided that the controversial Police and Criminal Evidence Bill, which caused the Government more trouble than any piece of legislation in the last session of Parliament, is not to be reintroduced until October.

The head of the CPRS, Mr John Sparrow, who led the 16-member unit of eight civil servants and eight people seconded from the Civil Service since April 1982, is to return to Morgan Grenfell and Company when the "think tank" is wound up. He received a warm tribute from the Prime Minister last night.

The decision to scrap the unit, which was overshadowed in *The Times* last Thursday, had been expected for some time. It is understood that Mrs Thatcher came within an inch of disbanding it in 1979 but was dissuaded by her then senior policy adviser, Mr John Hoskyns.

The Downing Street announcement last night pointed to the establishment or expansion of government departments of their own policy units.

complete their secondment in the Government, efforts will be made to fall in with their wishes.

The Cabinet put the final touches to the Government's heavy legislative programme, to be outlined in the Queen's speech opening the new session of Parliament next Wednesday, in a meeting that lasted an hour and 50 minutes.

Mr Leon Brittan, the new Home Secretary, intends to have a long look at the Police Bill, on which his predecessor, Viscount Whitelaw of Penrith had to make considerable concessions before it was lost through the calling of the general election. Mr Brittan is clearly anxious to avoid having to make any further embarrassing climbdowns when the Bill returns.

Ministers agreed that Bills to curb excessive rate increases by high-spending councils and to set up a new authority for London Transport, on which a White Paper will be published shortly, will come in the next session.

But it was uncertain last night whether the legislation abolishing the metropolitan councils and the Greater London Council would come in the new session.

As expected, there will be a Bill implementing the latest stages of Mr Norman Tebbit's proposed trade union reforms. It will give union members the right to hold ballots for the election of union governing bodies.

Another Bill will privatize the National Bus Company.



Airport greeting: The Pope with Professor Jablonski, Polish Head of State

## Solemn return home for the Pope

From Roger Boyes, Warsaw

His face taut with emotion, the Pope returned to his homeland yesterday, kissed Polish soil and immediately spoke out on behalf of those Poles who are suffering and are imprisoned for their belief. The first moments on Polish territory clearly set the tone of his eight-day pilgrimage: he will be setting out to heal the wounds opened up by martial law but never forgetting the church's duty to side with the victims.

The waiting crowds seemed to share the solemnity of the occasion: there was little carnival spirit in evidence despite the huge roar of approval that greeted the Pope as he was driven in his glass encased vehicle from the windswept Warsaw airport to the centre of the capital to celebrate Holy Mass.

Red and white carnations were thrown in his path and some of the bystanders raised their fists in a V-for-victory sign, while there was some isolated chanting of "Solidarity, Solidarity" and "Solidarity welcomes the Holy Father".

However the choruses did not attract the notice of the police, many hundreds of whom were grouped at the ready in the side streets running parallel to the papal route. The police later asked the crowds to disperse and the people complied, heading for the cathedral.

Mr Lech Walesa, meanwhile, remained in Gdansk where he is under 4 hour surveillance by three security policemen for "his own protection". Mr Walesa, is convinced that they intend to stop him meeting the Pope in Czestochowa but he is determined to attempt to do so at any cost.

After being welcomed by both the prime minister, Cardinal Jozef Glemp, and the Polish Head of State, Professor Henryk Jablonski, the Pope expressed his joy at being in his homeland, the first visit since 1979.

"The kiss placed on the soil of Poland has a particular meaning for me. It is like a kiss placed on the hands of a mother... A mother who has suffered much and who suffers anew," he said.

Sensing that he could not fill all the nation's expectations from the visit, the Pope spoke directly to the victims. "I myself am not able to visit all the sick, the imprisoned, the suffering, but I ask them to be close to me in spirit," he said.

The great gulf between the Government view - although some welcoming officials kissed the Pope's ring - and the church leadership was immediately evident. Professor Jablonski, who after all is the head of a Marxist state, said: "We will not abandon the roads of (Socialist) reforms, nor shall we cease striving to make our

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## 12 expelled from Stowe after drugs ambush

By a Correspondent

Twelve pupils have been expelled and five others suspended from Stowe School in Buckinghamshire, after teachers uncovered a drugs ring by ambushing four boys who stole a master's car in the middle of the night to go to a party.

Last night, the headmaster, Mr Christopher Turner said: "We had to stamp out drug usage and quite honestly I'm very upset about the numbers involved."

Thames Valley Police drugs squad officers were told about the "cannabis ring" at Stowe, where the fees are £4,000 a year.

Mr Turner said "We had heard rumours about drug usage and I told the staff to be on the lookout. Then in the early hours of Sunday morning it was discovered that a master's car had been taken by four pupils."

"Masters were alerted and they managed to close the school barrier stopping the car before it was driven out of the grounds."

Mr Turner, aged 53, said that the four boys in the vehicle were questioned. They had admitted their parts in cannabis smoking at the school - and they named the others in the ring.

Mr Turner added: "I was compelled to expel 12 boys, all aged between 15 and 18, and relegate five others. All 17 admitted smoking cannabis."

He added: "I have warned the 650 pupils that the use of drugs results in instant expulsion. They knew the rules."

A Thames Valley spokesman said last night: "Drugs squad officers were called in by the headmaster and substances were taken away for detailed examination. A report will be prepared and will be considered by our prosecutions department."

## Andropov becomes Soviet President

From Richard Owen, Moscow

Mr Yuri Andropov was unanimously elected Soviet President yesterday at a session of the Supreme Soviet in the Great Kremlin Palace. There were no other candidates, and the decision was automatically approved.

The move means that, like Mr Brezhnev before him, Mr Andropov now holds three important offices: the party leadership, the state presidency, and chairmanship of the Supreme Defence Council.

It had been expected that Mr Andropov would become head of state shortly after being appointed party leader last November, but it has taken him seven months to combine the two posts. It took Mr Brezhnev thirteen years.

The Supreme Soviet also called for a five-power nuclear arms freeze which would pave the way for future arms reductions. It passed a resolution urging Britain, the United States, China and France to join Russia in declaring a freeze.

The post of President - formally speaking, Chairman of the Presidium of the Supreme Soviet - is a nominal one, but consolidates Mr Andropov's position as national leader. It has symbolic significance and enables him to deal with foreign leaders on an equal level.

Mr Andropov was nominated by Mr Konstantin Chernenko, his main rival for the party leadership last November. Mr Chernenko appears to have reestablished himself as a leading political figure, however, and the move was intended to underline Politburo consensus.

It is striking that although Mr Andropov is now President he was not in a position to make changes to the Politburo line-up at the Central Committee Plenum which preceded the Supreme Soviet.

Mr Chernenko praised Mr Andropov as a man of "human qualities, wisdom and experience", and said his appointment as President underlined the unity of party and state.

Mr Chernenko disappeared from public view earlier this year, but this week made a powerful speech calling for an ideological campaign to counteract President Reagan's "crusade against communism" and asserting that Russia would

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## Kinnock ready to abandon pledge to leave EEC

By Anthony Revins, Political Correspondent

Mr Neil Kinnock, the runaway favourite for the Labour Leadership, is next week expected to ditch the party commitment to withdraw from the EEC.

It is known that even before the general election, and despite the party manifesto pledge, Mr Kinnock did not feel that withdrawal would be feasible, but Labour's soft left challenger for the leadership in now expected to argue that the accession of Spain and Greece will pave the way for new, long-term alignments within the Community.

Mr Kinnock's campaign organizers are hoping that he will issue a policy statement or "manifesto" next week, but there was no suggestion last night that he would be attempting to modify his views on the need for unilateral nuclear disarmament.

One colleague of Mr Kinnock's said last night: "There will be no revisionism on the bomb."

Meanwhile, Mr Kinnock and Mr Roy Hattersley issued simultaneous statements saying that they would indeed both be standing for the deputy leadership as well as the top party post.

The two statements did not, however, include any endorsements and suggestions of a "coalition" ticket were last night discounted by Mr Kinnock's supporters.

The two men said that they had decided to stand for the deputy's job after "representations" and in the interest of party "unity". The contest would also be conducted in a spirit of "comradeship", but it was noted that Mr Hattersley had failed to express Mr Kinnock's view: That he would be standing for work under the other man if he were elected leader.

Mr Peter Shore, another leadership contender, issued a warning that if the party followed the course of recent years, the country would be doomed to years of Conservative rule. The Labour Party would find itself pushed into a "third place", to a "minority role in British politics."

Mr Shore was joined in the contest by a close political ally, Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, who announced that she, too, would be standing for the deputy leadership.

She joins Mr Michael Meacher, Mr Dennis Davies, Mr Kinnock and Mr Hattersley. Now that Mr Hattersley has agreed to stand for deputy, Mr Gerald Kaufman will no longer seek nomination.

Some members of the Kinnock camp are hoping that Mr Denis Healey and Mr Michael Foot will not stand in the Shadow Cabinet elections, to make way for the up-and-coming young men. There is widespread Commons speculation that old guard figures, such as Mr Stanley Orme, Mr John Silkin, Mr Merlyn Rees and Mr Brynmor John will stand aside.

Names of the young blood mentioned in yesterday's *Tribune* included Mr Robin Cook (Livingston), Mr Jack Straw (Blackburn), Mr Jeffrey Rooker (Birmingham, Perry Barr), Mr Meacher (Oldham, West) and Mr Gavin Strang (Edinburgh, West).



Mrs Dunwoody: Fight for No 2 post.

## BSC gets £55,000 part-time chief

The Department of Trade and Industry last night confirmed the appointment of Mr Robert Haslam, chairman of Tate & Lyle, the sugar company, as the part-time chairman of the British Steel Corporation.

Mr Haslam, who is 60, takes up the post on September 1 at an annual salary of £55,000. Mr Ian MacGregor, the present chairman, is to extend his term to the end of August, when he takes on the £60,000-a-year chairmanship of the National Coal Board. He will remain a part-time member of the BSC.

Mr Haslam's appointment was announced by Mr Cecil Parkinson, the new Secretary of State for Trade and Industry, who said the new chairman would spend half of his working week at the BSC.

Mr MacGregor, whose steel contract contained the controversial £1.8m "transfer fee" payable to the New York investment bank of Lazard Freres, drew an annual salary of £48,500 for the full-time post.

Mr Parkinson added that Mr Robert Scholey, the full-time deputy chairman of the BSC, "is expected to play a key role in the future management of the corporation". This is believed to indicate that the BSC board under Mr Haslam is likely to appoint Mr Scholey as chief executive.

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### Watch on Lebanon activities

## Soviet spy ship keeps eye on Israelis

From Robert Fisk, On board USS Virginia Eastern Mediterranean

The Soviet Union has sent one of its sophisticated destroyers into the Eastern Mediterranean, along with a frigate and an intelligence-gathering ship, to monitor the activities of the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon and keep watch on units of the US Sixth Fleet off Beirut.

The 4,750-ton Kashin-class destroyer Sderzhannyi equipped with Sam anti-aircraft missiles, is cruising up to only five miles off the Lebanese coast in apparent readiness to defend the smaller Soviet intelligence vessel from any Israeli air attack.

The possibility of a sudden Israeli military withdrawal from the perimeter of Beirut back to the edge of Sidon is of critical importance to the Russians, whose Syrian allies are facing Israeli troops in the Bekaa Valley and are refusing to pull their army out of Lebanon.

From their station beside the Sixth Fleet, the Russians can listen in to Israeli radio frequencies along the coastal highway towards the Lebanese frontier, the main Israeli supply route to Beirut.

At least one large Israeli radio and logistics base, near the Zaharani oil terminal, is scarcely 20 miles from the nearest Soviet ships.

Any intelligence gathered by the Soviet ships is undoubtedly being passed to Damascus. So in an effort to "blind" the Russian vessels a few days ago an Israeli aircraft flew low over the Mediterranean and dropped communications-distorting "chaff" to black out the Soviet monitoring equipment in the Mena-class intelligence ship Kilden.

The Kilden - classified on board the nuclear-powered missile cruiser Virginia as an AGI (auxiliary intelligence collector) - is a 1,700-ton ship with a squat smokestack built at the Polish port of Gdansk. It appears to be carrying "Grail" missiles in addition to its ultra-sensitive radio detection equipment.

According to US naval officers, the Russians are worried that the Israelis, at some moment of hostilities with the Syrians, may bomb the Kilden to prevent Damascus obtaining vital information about the Israeli Army in southern Lebanon.

Moscow has not forgotten how Israeli jets bombed the Liberty - an American intelligence-gathering vessel - at the height of the 1967 Middle East war. On that occasion the Israelis said that the Liberty was mistaken for an Egyptian vessel.

## BBC pulls out of Ascot

By Kenneth Gosling

Television coverage of the Royal Ascot meeting today and racing from Ascot Heath tomorrow has been abandoned by the BBC after members of its outside broadcast staff who began industrial action on Wednesday refused to sign undertakings yesterday to work normally.

The BBC said its action had been taken with regret; cameras and other equipment were withdrawn from Ascot last night. Transmissions from the BMW tennis championships from Eastbourne continued normally on both BBC channels yesterday, but if the dispute goes on the threat to the Wimbledon tennis championships on Monday becomes more acute.

Last night the Association of Broadcasting and Allied Staffs said the BBC's action in asking for guarantees had changed a serious dispute about an industrial issue into what amounted to an attempt by the BBC to break the union.

When the stoppage began on Wednesday coverage of two World Cup cricket matches, including England's game against New Zealand, was blacked out.

The dispute is about the way the staff are paid allowances for working away from base. But there are various other issues, including a claim for "captive time" allowance - extra money for long periods spent away from home - and for staff to be allowed to go home overnight if they are within reasonable distance. Between 75 and 80 men are involved.

The World Professional Billiards and Snooker Association, snooker's governing body, worried about over-exposure, has rejected television's bid to screen the Professional Players' Tournament in October.

### 'Famous two' sue

Anna Ford and Angela Rippon are to sue TV-am for breach of contract over their dismissal as presenters in April.

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### TOMORROW

and graces Sunday Sheridan takes an ironic look at open-air theatre in Britain, weekend breather Cotswolds and a Sweden - from the one to the other.

on the move to cope with the on a day trip to the. Plus: How to light work of living with baby, out somewhere to eat after a at the theatre, rinking or Moselle? It ds where you are, and new.

Millar examines contrasting styles of ledon 1983.

### ane puts Europe in ace race

the European Space rocket, performed to launch two satellites National Space Centre in Guiana. The launch hope into serious com- with the US in the ics satellite mar- nentially worth billions of

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### ld finance is to meet

finance ministers of the st Germany, France, and Japan will meet in next month to discuss rates and economic

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### tgage blow

er mortgage queues likely yesterday as Bank announced that it g out of the home loans for the foreseeable future.

### ANCIAL TIMES

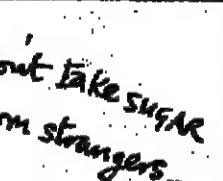
opened at the arbitration over the dispute, which the publication of the Financial Times for 15 issues. Index closed at 715.7.

### y spectacles

ational Health Service is ch the first spectacles specially for women, after ars of discussion and twenty years of Page 3

### les land

ing Sea Eagles arrived in from Arctic Norway and an RAF Nimrod, for the nature reserve on d of Rhum. Page 3



Don't take sugar from strangers...

### rgar error

underwriters said re- contacts with the ers of the racehorse resulted from misun- ings, and confirmed re prepared to pay £7m vners.

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### son's Cup

Wolf, ridden by Willie and owned by the racing manager, Lord ter, won the Gold Cup Ascot.

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Chapple says survival before socialism for the US recovery may not tain: David Watt on lack of foreign policy. n: Is this a hanging nt? Friday Page: What- ame of Joan Hea? Health Supplement - page Special Report on medical care.

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m Dennis Morris, Miss Dean.

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## Rail unions form federation

The two main rail unions yesterday forged a formal link and pledged themselves to use the new joint agreement to fight cuts in the railway network. Formation of the Railway Federation of Unions is designed to bring to an end years of bickering and dispute between the National Union of Railwaymen and the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen.

The two unions in the federation, the main architect of which was Mr Len Murray, general secretary of the TUC, are also seeking to widen their links to take in other transport unions.

## Mr George Willoughby

Yesterday's article about divisions within the Communist Party stated that Mr George Willoughby, secretary of the London Central branch of Sogat '82, was a Communist. That is wholly incorrect. Mr Willoughby, whom we also mentioned in the previous day's article, is a member of the Labour Party, which he has supported all his life. He is not and has never been a member of the Communist Party and has no connection whatsoever with any Communist, Marxist or Trotskyist party or organisation. We apologise to him for the embarrassment caused by our error.

## Pledge over safe cruise

Cruise missiles will not be deployed in Britain until they have complied fully with all necessary safety procedures, Mr Michael Heseltine, Secretary of State for Defence, said yesterday at a press conference in London.

His assurance came after reports from the US that the missile system was still experiencing technical problems. He said he was sure that the Americans would subject cruise to the most rigorous test procedures, and were still going through those procedures.

## Man falls out of ambulance

A man was critically ill last night after falling from the back of an ambulance while it was travelling at 40 mph. Mr Stephen Steward, aged 34, was being taken to hospital at Peterborough, Cambridgeshire, suffering from a drug overdose. The driver and attendant lifted him back into the ambulance and finished their journey. Mr Steward was later transferred to Addenbrooke's Hospital, Cambridge, with serious head injuries.

## Paralysed lone sailor sets off

Mr Michael Spring, a lone yachtsman, left Falmouth yesterday in an attempt to sail 2,400 miles to the Azores. He is paralysed from the waist down. Mr Spring, aged 39, was injured in a car accident 14 years ago. He has designed a glassless cushion on which he sits on his stomach to haul himself about the decking. He sailed single-handed round Britain two years ago.

## Falklands 'still killing soldiers'

Servicemen are still dying as a result of the Falklands war although hostilities ended a year ago, doctors have told the South Atlantic Fund.

"We have had a number of cases that have developed since the war ended and a medical opinion suggests the war is a contributory factor", Captain Tony Lambourne, secretary of the fund, said yesterday.

# Calvi flight saved the Italian Government, inquest is told

By John Witherow

A business associate of Roberto Calvi, the Italian banker found hanging under a London bridge a year ago, was stated in court yesterday to have said that he had arranged Signor Calvi's flight to England to prevent the collapse of the Italian Government.

Mr Robert Clarke, a solicitor, told the second inquest on Signor Calvi that Flavio Carboni, the business friend, had indirectly arranged a private flight from Austria to London and accommodation, saying "he was acting on behalf of Vatican interests and if the arrangements had not been made the Government might have fallen".

Mr Clarke had been told that by Hans Kuntz, described as a "fixer", who was a partner in Switzerland of one of his clients. The client had booked the flight to London for what were described as two directors of Fiat, but were in fact Signor Calvi and his alleged bodyguard, Silvano Vittor.

Signor Calvi, aged 62, president of the Banco Ambrosiano, was found hanging under Blackfriars Bridge on June 18, a few days before he was to appear in Italy against a four-year prison sentence for currency offences. An inquest last year decided that he had killed himself, but that verdict was overturned by the High Court on appeal by his family, who believed he was murdered.

He suggested that Signor Calvi could have a cloth containing ethyl chloride held over his face until he became unconscious for several minutes. During that time he could be injected with a curare-type drug, which would have left

him conscious but immobile for a longer period.

Asked by Dr Arthur Gordon Davies, the City of London Coroner, how he reacted to this alleged statement by Signor Carboni, Mr Clarke said: "It was a totally bizarre situation outside my experience".

He said that Signor Kuntz, whom he described as having a "grasshopper mind", has offered to attend the inquest and the coroner, asked the police to get touch with Signor Kuntz and request him to attend, as he "is somewhere in the centre of this story".

Earlier the jury had requested that Signor Vittor, who left London only a few hours after the body was found, be asked to attend the inquest next week.

Signor Vittor is in jail in Italy but is expected to be released within a few days. Signor Carboni, who was also in London at the time of Signor Calvi's death, is in prison facing charges and is unlikely to attend the inquest.

The jury heard from Dr William Wilson, a forensic



Miss Kleinz yesterday: "Nobody in the flat".

toxicologist that Signor Calvi had 28 different types of drugs in his flat in London. He had examined the body and found only small traces of drugs.

"This was almost a chemist's shop ready for any eventuality", Dr Davies said. Dr Wilson agreed that if Signor Calvi had wished to kill himself by taking an overdose of drugs he had adequate supplies.

Dr Roy Goulding, former director of the National poisons unit at Guy's Hospital, in London said it was possible to use drugs which were undetectable or left only minute traces in the body.

Dr Goulding explained the absence of marks on Signor Calvi's body by saying he had injected himself on his left shoulder and right leg. Some 10 hours later he could barely discern the puncture marks. Two colleagues who did not know where they were could not find them. He also demonstrated how easy it was to obtain ethyl chloride by holding up a small bottle he had bought.

Mr Richard du Cann, QC, for Signor Carboni, pointed out that despite exhaustive post-mortem examinations in England and Italy no traces of drugs had been found in Signor Calvi's body.

Miss Manuela Kleinz, the Austrian friend of Signor Vittor, told the court of what had happened to him the night Signor Calvi disappeared. She said he returned to the flat but found the door locked. Eventually he got someone to open it "but there was nobody inside and he thought Calvi had gone to get something to eat. He slept waiting for Calvi to come back."

The hearing continues today.

## Labour leadership

# TGWU not to consult members

By David Felton, Labour Correspondent

The union with the biggest block vote in the Labour Service Employees will now be allocated after consultations have taken place among its 800 branches. The other main health service union, Naps, is conducting a similar exercise.

The executive of the TGWU decided at the end of its five-day meeting in London to put an emergency motion to its biennial delegates conference in the Isle of Man next month that its 1,250,000 block vote should be swung behind Mr Kinnock.

It is unlikely that the conference will take an opposing view, although it is possible for other contenders in the leadership race to be nominated by delegates. Mr Mostyn (Moss) Evans, the general secretary of the TGWU said after the executive meeting that the conference was the "widest possible franchise" of any organization considering electing a new leader.

"I think you can elect the leader of the Tory Party in a telephonebox but the Labour Party is much more democratic than that", he said.

Over the next three weeks, before the conference, members in branch meetings would be able to pass on their views to their delegates to the conference, so that when the emergency motion was discussed there would have been consultations with the membership, he said.

However, the executive decided not to repeat the 1981 regional consultation exercise, which threw up strong support for Mr Denis Healey in the deputy leadership race, while in the end the union voted for Mr Wedgwood Benn.

Mr Evans said it would also be "asking a bit too much" to have a one person, one vote exercise within the union because of the high cost

of expenditure and taxation.

"We therefore recommend", the committee says, "that legislation should be introduced to provide for a control y the House of Commons over the Government's annual borrowing requirement on its own account."

It says that the exact form of the legislation would depend on the nature of other financial reforms to be introduced. If there was still a single finance bill the borrowing requirement could form a part of it.

On the other hand, the committee could take evidence from ministers and report to the House when it considered a debate was required. That would give the Commons a proper mechanism for continuous scrutiny and monitoring of the Government's borrowing requirement.

The committee argues that there is just as strong a case for the House to be given formal powers to approve the Government's borrowing requirement as there is for it to control

expenditure and taxation.

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New men in other places: Left, Mr Bernard Weatherill, the new Speaker of the House of Commons, at the Speaker's House yesterday. (Photograph: Suresh Karadia). Above, Mr William Whitelaw, the former Home Secretary, in the Moses Room at the Palace of Westminster yesterday before being introduced to the House of Lords as Viscount Whitelaw of Penrith.

# Law halts church 'boycott'

By Clifford Longley, Religious Affairs Correspondent

The law has forced a change in direction of the Methodist Church's policy towards South Africa. The Charity Commissioners have forbidden any further payment to the World Council of Churches fund against racism. The church's own lawyers have said that any further withdrawal of investment funds from companies with business in South Africa could be illegal.

The church's annual conference later this month will be asked to agree that the policy of disinvestment, by selling Methodist shareholdings in British companies with a South

African connexion, has gone as far as the law allows.

The funds are managed by a charitable trust, which has a legal duty to maximise its return. Having sold all its shares in companies with substantial South African interests, the fund's managers were under pressure to sell shares in such "blue chip" companies as ICI.

That would have begun to reduce the average rate of yield, and legal advice was that that would not be permissible.

Instead, the conference will be asked to set up a committee to supervise future investment policy, and to raise with

companies in which the church holds shares that company's South African involvement.

The Methodist Church is the only one in Britain which makes direct contributions to the Programme to Combat Racism of the World Council of Churches.

Told by the Charity Commissioners that those donations were not legally charitable, the church first investigated the possibility of a court case, which it was told it would not win.

Instead it will open a private fund outside the Charity Commissioners jurisdiction.

# Single board likely to replace ILEA

By Lucy Hodges, Education Correspondent

A single board, comprising representatives of London's 12 boroughs and the City, is expected to replace the Inner London Education Authority under government plans for the reform of local government.

The proposal to abolish the authority, which is a direct result of the Conservative manifesto commitment to get rid of the Greater London Council, is still in preliminary stages of preparation. Legislation is expected in the next session of Parliament.

Ministers will be consulting widely in the coming months and will be meeting with Conservatives on the authority, who are known to be unhappy with the notion that a new board would be made up solely of borough representatives and would have no directly elected members.

At present 35 of the authority's members are directly elected on an education ticket and there are in addition 13 borough representatives.

Professor David Smith, leader of the 11 Conservatives on the authority, who was not consulted about the election manifesto commitment, is concerned that borough representatives will not have the time or the commitment to devote to the authority's work on top of their normal council duties.

The reason the Government is thought to prefer borough representatives over elected members is precisely because they will not be so committed to

education and will approach it as another local authority service, competing for limited funds.

Apart from the composition question, there are signs that a new board to run inner London education would differ from the present only in name. It is expected to have the same functions, responsibilities and administration. It is bound to be Labour-controlled, because inner London is Labour, though there may be a few more Conservatives.

Although the number of members has not yet been decided it is understood that the number of representatives allocated to each borough would be related to the population.

Leifer and more Conservative boroughs such as Wandsworth have growing populations, compared with deprived Tower Hamlets.

The reform is not expected to save money. The authority's budget this year is £869. It spends more on each child than any other authority in Britain: £1,733 a year on a secondary pupil. At the same time it has far more problems than elsewhere.

The new board is likely to run on money levied on the boroughs as at present. Although there has been some discussion about dividing London into several boards (say, north and south of the river) this is not thought feasible because the bulk of the money comes from the high rates in Westminster and the City.

# Rare Tang dynasty pot sets new record price

By Geraldine Norman, Sale Room Correspondent

Many of the world's richest ceramic connoisseurs were attracted to New York on Wednesday for an auction of Chinese Tang dynasty pottery (AD 618-908) with the result that a new auction price record was set.

A \$484,000 (estimate \$70,000-\$90,000) or £316,339. The pot was clearly a piece of exceptional quality but Sotheby's had not dared to set an estimate on it too far above previous auction prices.

It soared beyond the price outturn for lesser pieces and the Japanese collector, Seijiro Matsukata, aged 90, who owns a museum in Tokyo, secured the jar after battle with Hirano, the leading Japanese dealer, who is thought to have been setting for another private collector.

A Japanese dealer secured the other main Tang dynasty rarity, a glazed pottery tureen in the form of a goose, 11in high, at \$275,000 (estimate \$40,000-\$60,000) or £179,735.

Again Sotheby's had not dared to forecast that an exceptional piece would necessarily make an exceptional price. A goose is a great rarity in pottery of that period. However, there is a similar example in the Avery-Bundage collection,

which has been sent exhibition in Hongkong.

There were two new and highs in less expensive field. A pichrome glazed ewer set as a mermaid made the high ever price for pottery of Liao Dynasty (AD 907-1125) \$115,500 (estimate \$70,000) or £75,490. A painted Neolithic pottery 13in high, of the Yang period, made a record \$22,000 (\$30,000-\$50,000), £28,030.

In Sotheby's London y sale a self-portrait etched Edgar Degas in 1857 sold £39,000 (estimate £15,000) to Artemis. It is a superb impression of a very image.

Sotheby's also held a sculpture, bronzes and jewellers ranging in date from the Mi Ages to the eighteenth century which was not heavily competed for, leaving 25 per cent unsold, with a total of £223.

Collectors appeared to be lost interest in Renaissance bronzes but terracottas more popular, with a French eighteenth-century model of a monument making £3,520 (estimate £1,500-£2,000).

# RUC officer shot in day of bomb attacks

By Richard Ford

A policeman was seriously injured in a terrorist shooting yesterday during six hours of bomb attacks and hoaxes which brought traffic chaos to Belfast for most of the day.

Gunmen opened fire on the Royal Ulster Constabulary officer as he and his colleagues evacuated the shopping centre in Newry, co Down, after armed men had dumped a holdall containing a bomb in a television hire store.

The men fled to a block of flats near by. Moments after the bomb exploded, seriously damaging the shop, they opened fire on the policeman, injuring him in the stomach. Several shoppers were treated for shock.

Hours earlier a bomb planted by the Protestant Action Force exploded outside the house belonging to the sister of Mr Joseph Bennett, a "loyalist" informer.

A gas cylinder containing 7lb of explosives detonated near the front door of Mrs Joan Galbraith's home in east Belfast, destroying the front wall.

Mrs Galbraith, aged 42, who adopted the informer's two children 10 years ago, said, "I am very bitter about what has happened."

# Charity body eschews moral judgment

The Charity Commission reaffirmed in their report 1982, published yesterday, that the organization is a "judicial" body which can make moral judgments.

They say that Sir Miles Havers, QC, the Attorney General had asked them to withdraw charitable status from two religious trusts associated with the Unification Church (the Moonies).

The commissioners refused to do so on the ground that they had no legal power to do so under the Charities Act. Sir Michael is appealing to the High Court against the decision.

Report of the Charity Commissioners for England and Wales for the year 1982. HC Stationery Office (84-629).

Overseas selling prices: (a) 100g of gold, 100g of silver, 100g of platinum, 100g of palladium, 100g of rhodium, 100g of iridium, 100g of ruthenium, 100g of cobalt, 100g of nickel, 100g of copper, 100g of zinc, 100g of aluminium, 100g of magnesium, 100g of calcium, 100g of strontium, 100g of barium, 100g of lanthanum, 100g of cerium, 100g of praseodymium, 100g of neodymium, 100g of promethium, 100g of samarium, 100g of europium, 100g of gadolinium, 100g of terbium, 100g of dysprosium, 100g of holmium, 100g of erbium, 100g of thulium, 100g of ytterbium, 100g of lutetium, 100g of hafnium, 100g of tantalum, 100g of tungsten, 100g of rhenium, 100g of osmium, 100g of iridium, 100g of platinum, 100g of gold, 100g of silver, 100g of copper, 100g of zinc, 100g of aluminium, 100g of magnesium, 100g of calcium, 100g of strontium, 100g of barium, 100g of lanthanum, 100g of cerium, 100g of praseodymium, 100g of neodymium, 100g of promethium, 100g of samarium, 100g of europium, 100g of gadolinium, 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## NHS launches old-look spectacles for women after 20-year study

By David Hewson

One of the tardiest products of National Health Service bureaucracy, a new pair of spectacles will be launched within a fortnight.

The design, the first made specifically for women, is the end product of two years of discussion at the Department of Health and Social Security. But health officials have been deliberating over the future shape of the spectacles for nearly two decades.

When Mrs Barbara Castle was Minister for Health in the 1960s she initiated a programme to introduce replacements for the much criticized original range, but the final designs were not agreed.

The new spectacles are the result of an initiative by Dr Gerard Vaughan, while Minister for Health in the last government, once described the old range of glasses as being

"like something out of a museum".

For all the anticipation of its launching, the new frames are hardly in line with today's style, which favours lightweight, thin-armed, low-jointed, large lensed frames of colourful plastic.

The 924, as the model is known, has heavy lines, with a slight upsweep, giving a distinctly old-fashioned look. Given the vagaries of fashion, the current 524 plastic NHS frame introduced in 1948, may be considered more chic by some of today's spectacle wearers.

The Government is committed to going ahead with the launching and at least half a million pairs are ready for dispatch by about 16 manufacturers. They should be with opticians by July 1.

The 924 is only the second standard NHS frame to be made in plastic and comes in four colour options: sherry, tan and lilac, all two-toned, and mottled brown.

The price has not yet been disclosed, but other frames cost from £2.05 for the plastic 524 to £13.05 for a plastic-coated metal frame in the style worn by John Lennon, the former Beatle. The price of NHS-subsidized lenses, £8 to £31, is additional.



Eyes have it: Amanda Dixon, aged 19, trying the new National Health Service spectacles for size yesterday. (Photograph Chris Milligan).

## 'Socialite' theory on river body

The heavily jewelled woman whose body was found, wrapped in cloth and weighed, in the river Trent near Nottingham on Tuesday could have been a businesswoman or an upper-class socialite, detectives said yesterday.

Police said they had few clues to the murdered woman's identity apart from the jewelry, worth £700, she was wearing and her teeth; dental records were being checked.

Det. Supt. Colin Rawlinson said: "She may well have been a well known socialite or professional woman, who had to keep up appearances. The jewelry is very tasteful, and her personal hygiene meticulous. Her teeth showed dental work of the highest quality, suggesting expensive private treatment."

## Knife killer jailed for life

A jilted man was jailed for life at the Central Criminal Court yesterday for stabbing his former lover to death on the Thames embankment.

Stanley Morris, aged 52, a porter, of Eversholt Street, Euston, used a long-bladed butcher's knife to inflict 88 wounds including nine to the heart, on Mrs Mary McCarr, aged 32, formerly of Belshill, Lanarkshire, the court heard.

## Rolls raider

Police were looking yesterday for a thief who used duplicate keys to steal £1,520 in cash and travellers' cheques, and camera equipment worth £300 from the boots of two Rolls-Royce cars parked at Ascot racecourse.

## Food summonses

Bow Street Magistrates' Court yesterday adjourned until September 19 44 summonses against the Cafe Royal, in London, alleging breach of food hygiene and health and safety regulations.

## Sea eagles flown to Scotland

By Ronald Faux

A batch of 10 young sea eagles arrived in Scotland yesterday from Arctic Norway on board an RAF Nimrod aircraft. They were banded, at fastest speed, for the national nature reserve on the island of Rhum off the coast of Scotland, where 52 young sea eagles have been released during the past eight years.

The arrival of the latest birds, noble-looking predators with an eight-foot wingspan when mature, coincided with

an announcement by the Royal Society for the Protection of Birds that the experiment to encourage the return of sea eagles into the natural environment in Scotland was showing signs of success. Eggs were laid in two nests this year, but none hatched, probably because the parents were still immature.

The RSPB staff who found the nests and mounted a watch over them were disappointed, but confident that this could be

the first sure sign that the patient work by the society and the Nature Conservancy Council will prove successful next year.

Unlike the birds in the Norwegian colonies, the British sea eagles have been persecuted to extinction, mainly because of Victorian notions that anything with beak and talons does irreparable harm to livestock and is best seen stuffed in a show case.

## Fall in road accidents credited to motorways

By Michael Bailly, Transport Editor

Britain's roads are twice as crowded as in 1960, but injuries from road accidents have more than halved. This is partly because of the expansion of motorways, from 192 km to 2,539 km, which are considered to be about six times as safe as ordinary roads.

The number of cars continues to rise despite the recession and rising petrol prices. The number of vehicles in use rose from 10 million in 1961 to 19,400,000 in 1981, according to the British Road Federation (BRF). The number of driving licences rose from 12,100,000 to 25,600,000. The number of women drivers is increasing faster than male drivers, an increase of 15 per cent over the past three years, compared with 3.8 per cent for all drivers.

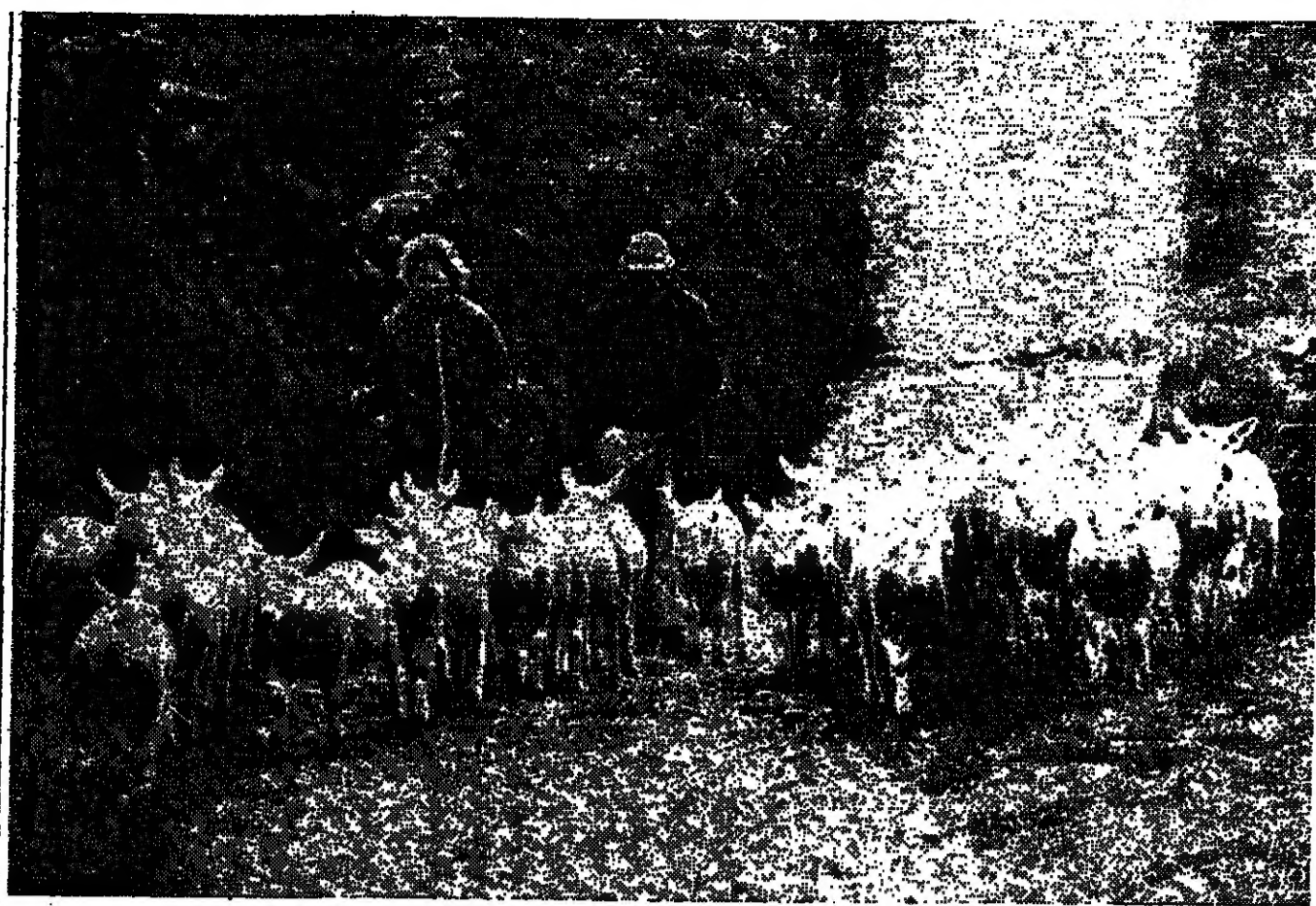
Some 93 per cent of passenger journeys and 82 per cent of

freight journeys are made by road. By 1981 there were 57 vehicles for every kilometre of road, compared with 29 in 1960.

Despite its high traffic level, Britain has one of the world's worst records on road expenditure as a proportion of state revenue. Road users paid more than three times as much in taxes last year as was spent on roads, the BRF claims, £9.3m compared with £2.8m.

Britain spent 2.3 per cent of state revenue on roads in 1981, compared with 7 per cent in France, 4.9 per cent in Germany, 13.4 per cent in Italy, 5 per cent in Japan and 4.7 per cent in the United States.

The BRF admits that road spending has improved in recent years but estimates that another £13,000m needs to be spent.



Long and winding road: Mr Pinney's flock makes progress. (Photograph: Andrew Varley).

## Trailing the golden hoof

By Michael Horsnell

Mr Azn Pinney is following the 400-mile trail of his ancestors by shepherding a flock of Cheviot sheep from Scotland to Exmoor.

With his dogs Roy and Shep, Mr Pinney, aged 47, has now trodden green pastures for five weeks on a three months trek southwards to resurrect the tradition of moving livestock from the Scottish hills to the lowlands of England.

Simple shepherd the Eton and Oxford-educated Mr Pinney is not. In 1970 he forsook the crook of his forebears for the television studio as an independent producer. But behind most film makers, he says, is an instinctive desire to return to their roots. Hence the fulfilment of an ambition which was originally inspired by his mother.

She told him about the legends of migrant shepherds who on arrival from distant parts of Britain found the sheep they had brought with them unable to survive the harsh environment of Exmoor, and so travelled to Scotland to purchase harder breeds.

Mr Pinney, who is married with six grown children, is aiming to investigate the importance of sheep and of the wool industry to his ancestors, and is making a television series in the process.

Interviewed at Heddon Bridge, West Yorkshire, he said: "Few areas of Britain have not felt the impact of sheep. It is not for nothing that the Lord Chancellor sits on the woolsack or that sheep are often referred to as the golden hoof."

Mr Pinney, a former chairman of the branch in Bridport, Dorset, of the National Farmers' Union, left the Borders town of Hawick on May 11 with 53 ewe hogs (and a large number of television technicians) for a steady four-and-a-half-mile-a-day journey south.

More than 250 farmers and landowners have given their permission for the flock to cross their land, and 81 have agreed to allow Mr Pinney to graze his sheep overnight.



## Child killer went back to work

From Our Correspondent

Robert Julian, a self-confessed child killer, was back at work on his market stall only a few days after being sent to a mental hospital, police disclosed yesterday.

Julian, a coin dealer, of Queen's Road, Wilberston, Northamptonshire, told the police that he had killed his baby son because "the Russians had landed" and he wanted him to die peacefully.

A Birmingham Crown court judge accepted his plea of not guilty to murdering his son on the ground of diminished responsibility. After Julian had admitted manslaughter he was granted bail on condition that he went to St Crispin's Hospital, in Northampton, for medical reports.

The court had been told that Julian was suffering from schizophrenia and was having hallucinations at the time of the offence last year. He ran naked from his home in the middle of the night carrying his son and attacked him in a field.

Det. Chief Inspector Robert Thorogood, of Northamptonshire police, said yesterday: "We can confirm that he did go out for a weekend, but unless there is a change in the bail conditions it is unlikely he will be out again."

Mr Peter True, the administrator of St Crispin's, said that Julian had been allowed out with the knowledge of medical staff as part of his treatment. "He is now staying at the hospital at all times."

## BBC criticized over youth music contest

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

The BBC was accused yesterday by the heads of singing faculties at some of Britain's leading music colleges of being "highly irresponsible" for its plans to hold an international music competition.

In a letter to Mr Geraint Stanley Jones, controller of BBC Wales, the academics have asked him to drop the competition, which is due to be recorded in four weeks' time.

Young classical singers from 18 countries have agreed to take part in the contest, the Cardiff Singer of the World, described as being for singers of a minimum age of 18 on the threshold of their professional careers.

The letter, signed by Professor Lyndon van der Pump, of the Royal College of Music, on behalf of the head of singing at the Royal Academy, says: "We wish to express our profound disquiet at such a venture."

"Young singers of 18 are emphatically not on the threshold of their careers and in our view should not be exposed to the stresses and publicity that such a competition as this will demand."

The letter is also signed by Majorie Thomas, head of the singing faculty, Royal Academy of Music; Alexander Young, head of the school of vocal studies, Royal Northern College of Music, Manchester; Neilson Taylor, Royal Scottish Academy of Music and Drama, Glasgow; Elizabeth Haines, chairman, singing faculty, Trinity College of Music, London; Noel Barker, head of singing faculty, Guildhall School of

## Ford and Rippon to sue over dismissal

By Kenneth Gosling

Anna Ford and Angela Rippon, two of the original "Famous Five" of TV-am, commercial television's breakfast network, are to sue the company for breach of contract over their dismissal in April as presenters.

Miss Ford said yesterday: "A writ is in the process of being served. We hoped they would see sense and pay us without going to court. We hoped they would behave like gentlemen, but they have not."

She was speaking at a BBC reception marking 10 years of the radio programme *Checkpoint*. As soon as she arrived she was questioned about a wine-throwing incident in London earlier this week involving Mr Jonathan Aiken.

who took over TV-am after Mr Peter Jay was deposed. But she refused to be drawn, saying the incident had been blown up out of all proportion.

She was clearly still angry, however, over what had happened to herself and Miss Rippon when the television station changed hands after a dramatic drop in its audience ratings. "I have not seen *Good Morning Britain* TV-am's breakfast show) in ages", she said.

Miss Ford also announced that she was to sue Mr Timothy Aiken, chief executive of TV-am, over remarks concerning herself in the *Daily Express*.

TV-am said yesterday: "We have not received a writ, nor any notification."

## Aids study in new VD unit

A research unit to investigate venereal diseases, made possible by an anonymous donation of £300,000, was officially opened in west London yesterday, Pearce Wright, Science Editor, writes.

Additional funds have been provided by the Wellcome Foundation for research on Aids, the lethal disease which has been particularly rife among some homosexual communities in the United States; it is thought to be caused by a virus.

The unit, at St Mary's Hospital, Paddington, is called the Jeffries Research Wing, after Dr James Jeffries, who has been senior venereologist at the hospital for 30 years.

It is believed to be the first purpose-built research unit for investigating sexually transmitted diseases constructed in Europe since the 1930s.

It is next to St Mary's Praed Street clinic, the busiest venereal disease clinic in the world.

## Atlantic air fares to be cut

By Our Transport Editor

North Atlantic air fares will drop in the autumn as airlines compete to fill empty seats after the summer peak.

Trans World Airlines announced yesterday a 25 per cent cut compared with last winter in the cost of return tickets booked in advance from London to New York and other American cities. The other main airlines on the route, British Airways and Pan Am, are expected to follow suit.

The new £258 London to New York return is still more expensive than the £99 single offered by People Express and is restricted to midweek travel, booked 60 days in advance. It will apply from September to March except for the Christmas fortnight.

TWA made no mention of People Express, describing the new fare as an attempt to prolong into the winter the excellent bookings for this summer.

## Police chief wins damages for libel

Commander Graham Stockwell, head of the Metropolitan Police fraud squad, is to receive "substantial" libel damages for an article in the *New Statesman* which falsely suggested that he had a "murky record", counsel told Mr Justice Cohn yesterday.

Mr Charles Gray, for Commander Stockwell, said the Statesman and Nation Publishing Co, Mr Bruce Page and Q B Ltd - the publishers, former editor and printers of the magazine - and the journalist Anna Coote, had also agreed to pay Commander Stockwell's legal costs.

Mr Gray said Commander Stockwell, a policeman for 27 years, had an impressive record. On March 13, 1981, under the heading "New Cross Death Fire: police chief's murky record", the magazine published an article written by Ms Coote.

The article suggested that,

during an investigation in 1972 into the murder of Maxwell Confait, Commander Stockwell deliberately falsified the record of answers given during questioning by three young suspects.

"The article went on to suggest that Commander Stockwell, as officer in charge of an investigation into a fire in Deptford in January, 1981, which resulted in the death of 13 young people, had been responsible for the harassment and threatening of young witnesses by officers under his command."

Mr Jonathan Caplan, for the defendants, said they now recognized that the criticisms of Commander Stockwell were groundless. "Through me they express their sincere apologies to him."



A glimpse at their future: The Belk family, Mrs Wendy Belk, David, aged five, Louise, aged six and Jennifer, eight, at the Earls Court exhibition. (Photograph: John Voos).

## Selling software to the family

By Bill Johnstone, Electronics Correspondent

Software for the family is one of the main themes of the four-day microcomputer exhibition, "The Computer Fair", which opened in Earls Court, London yesterday.

50,000 visitors are expected over the weekend to see and try the computers and accessories displayed by the 150 exhibitors.

Sinclair, Commodore, Texas Instruments and Atari are among the manufacturers represented at the fair. In the

past 12 months similar exhibitions mounted in Manchester, Birmingham and London have attracted more than 80,000 people.

The price of the hardware (computers) being offered by the manufacturers is dropping almost daily because of the severe competition. It is the software (the computer programs) which is gaining prominence. The fair has an abundance of companies which have emerged over the past

few years to provide extra support and peripherals which the microcomputer user is now expecting.

The days of the "boffin" being the typical owner of a home computer are long gone. More than 1 million of these devices have been sold to British households.

Price of admission is £3 for adults, £2 for children today and tomorrow from 10 am to 6 pm and on Sunday from 10 am to 5 pm.





## Europe in the space market

## Ariane's flawless launch stakes claim to satellite bonanza

By Clive Cookson and Bill Johnstone

The European rocket Ariane launched two satellites on its "make or break" flight yesterday. The perfect performance puts Europe back into serious competition with the American space industry for billions of pounds worth of business, building and launching communications satellites.

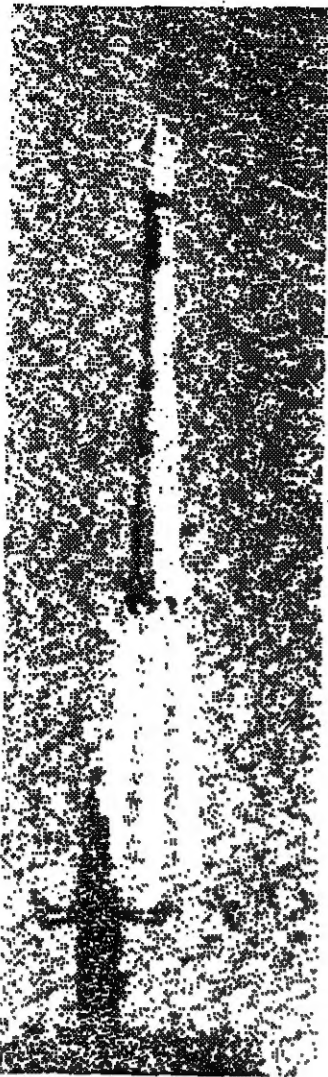
Ariane had crashed on its second and fifth missions, so yesterday's launch, the sixth from the French National Space Centre at Kourou, French Guiana, had to succeed. It will partially restore confidence in the European Space Agency's £750m programme to develop a rival launcher to the US Space Shuttle and the conventional rockets produced by the National Aeronautics and Space Administration.

But ESA officials said that the next firing would have to succeed, too, in putting Ariane on target for the £5 billion worth of launching business - third of the world market - which the European space industry is seeking between 1985 and 1991. All launches are already booked for the next two years.

France has put up nearly 60 per cent of Ariane's development costs, with the remainder coming from 10 other European countries: Britain's contribution is only 2.5 per cent. Those proportions will determine the participants' share in industrial contracts and profits.

But Britain has a big role in the construction of the satellites themselves, as opposed to the launcher. Ariane's main payload yesterday was ECS 1, the first in a series of five European Communications Satellites for which British Aerospace is prime contractor. (The second payload, Amstar, is a small West German amateur radio satellite.)

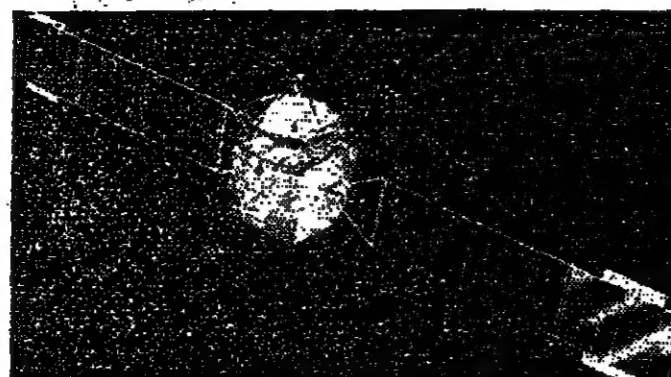
ECS 1 will inaugurate a new European telecommunications system, administered by the Eutelsat organization. It will



Lift off: Ariane leaving its jungle base in French Guiana.

provide telephone, telegraph, special business communications services and television distribution.

Seven European countries will share ECS's nine transponders (channels) for television transmissions. Britain has been allocated two: one for Satellite



In flight: Artist's impression of the European Communications Satellite.

Television and the other probably for British Telecom.

Yesterday Ariane launched the one-ton ECS 1 into an elliptical "transfer orbit". Early today the satellite's booster rocket will be fired, to thrust it into "geostationary orbit" 22,000 miles above the Equator.

ESA mission controllers may not know for a few days whether the craft has ended up in exactly the right position. But the most hazardous phase of the operation - the initial launch - has been accomplished flawlessly.

Tomorrow Ariane's archival, NASA's manned Space Shuttle, is due to begin its next flight.

The other European countries and members of Eutelsat, which represents 20 member states to share the nine transponders for broadcasting television, are West Germany, which has two, and Italy, France, Belgium, Holland and Switzerland, which have one each.

The satellite has two beams or footprints. The east beam covers Greece, Turkey, south Italy and East Germany, while the west beam, aimed by most of the nations, will be able to transmit to Britain, Scandinavia, France, northern Spain, northern Italy and West Germany.

The five-satellite project will

cost more than £100m. The second of the series, to be launched next year, will have two more channels devoted to sophisticated business communication. The success of Ariane will not only mean that the European nations have a space vehicle capable of launching their own satellites, but also a significant proportion of the 250 commercial satellites which are expected to be launched by 1991.

According to M Laurent Fabius, the French Industry Minister, who watched the launch: "This is a magnificent success. I am proud that my country and Europe can claim a leading place in the domain of space."

News International, the owner of Times Newspapers, the *News of the World* and the *Sun*, has made a bid for 65 per cent of Satellite Television the company which will operate one of the British transponders.

The company has been transmitting on the European Orbital Test Satellite (OTS) the forerunner of the satellite launched yesterday.

Goldcrest, the British company which has been responsible for financing films like *Gandhi*, *Local Hero* and *Chariots of Fire* has formed a partnership with four American partners, and intends to start a similar service next year.

## Syrians are blamed for death of 14 civilians

From Robert Fisk Beirut

In a savage new outbreak of killing in the Syrian-occupied northern Lebanese city of Tripoli, gunmen firing from a car killed up to 14 people and wounded another 17 as they ran screaming for cover near the harbour.

According to Lebanese state radio, a white Mercedes bearing diplomatic licence plates drove past a row of shops near the port as gunmen inside the vehicle sprayed the pavements with automatic fire.

The Phalangist Voice of Lebanon radio claimed that Syrian troops had come under fire during the morning and had killed the civilians when they shot back wildly at their attackers. Further reports from Tripoli suggested that the gunmen were themselves in civilian clothes but that the shooting followed the discovery of two Syrians murdered earlier in the day.

Meanwhile in southern Lebanon the Israeli Army maintained its siege of the village of Deir Qanoun En Nahr six days after three Israeli soldiers had been killed there in a guerrilla ambush. According to a spokesman for the United Nations Force in Southern Lebanon, in whose area the village lies, Israeli troops prevented UN soldiers from distributing food and milk to the villagers. The international Red Cross also complained that the Israelis had refused them permission to enter the village on 15 occasions.

During yesterday morning Israeli soldiers escorted into the village two tanks and two armoured personnel carriers of Major Saad Haddad's private army. What the major's men were doing there was not revealed. Several people among the village's population of 3,000 have fallen ill and the Israelis have permitted them to leave for medical treatment in neighbouring towns.

## Israel shows Britain how to handle war correspondents

From Christopher Walker, Jerusalem

Israel's well-honed system of military censorship and the elaborate arrangements for domestic and foreign journalists to cover its many wars are under scrutiny by a team of independent British experts sent here by the Ministry of Defence in London.

The team, headed by Vice-Admiral Anthony Whetton, is part of the larger and little-publicized Censorship Study Group established by the Ministry in the aftermath of the fierce criticism of the British Government's handling of the news media during the Falklands campaign.

Others involved in the investigation include Mr John Grant, a former Deputy Editor of *The Times*, and Mr John Thompson, Director of Radio, of the Independent Broadcasting Authority, and a former journalist with *The Observer*.

British and Israeli war correspondents have been questioned about the ways in which the Israeli Army helps and hinders those covering its operations some of them emphasized that one reason for its successful relationship with the news media was the absence of the civilian Defence Ministry "minders" so much criticized for their negative attitude in the Falklands conflict.

Lieutenant Colonel Jonathan Hall, assistant secretary of the group said that a number of British reporters, including Mr Max Hastings, of *The Standard*,

had spoken highly of the Israeli system as it operated here during the 1967 and 1973 wars.

At a number of meetings, Israeli government spokesmen have expressed admiration for the way Britain was able to exclude the world's press from the Falklands, and yet secure a generally favourable coverage while the opposite happened to Israel during its invasion of Lebanon.

Among those questioned are Brigadier-General Yitzhak Shani, Israel's chief military censor, and Brigadier-General Yaacov Even, the chief military spokesman, who was the target of much internal criticism as a result of critical reporting of the war in Lebanon.

Members of the group have already visited Nato headquarters in Brussels. It is understood that the final report is likely to concentrate on recommendations for handling the news media in a future "European theatre" war other than in an isolated conflict like the Falklands war.

When the findings are submitted later this year by the overall chairman, General Sir Hugh Beach, they are expected to rule out as impractical and undesirable the mass telephone tapping practised by Israel to ensure that all correspondents adhere to the guidelines laid down by the military censor.

An independent set of proposals is also being formulated inside the Ministry of Defence.

## Diplomats pave way for Lebanon pullback

From Our Own Correspondent, Jerusalem

Diplomatic moves have begun to pave the way for the partial pull-back of the Israeli Army from Lebanon to a new front line which is expected to run parallel with the Al Awwali river, about 27 miles from Israel's border.

Lebanon was discussed here yesterday by Mr Menachem Begin, the Prime Minister, and Mr Samuel Lewis, the US Ambassador. In Washington Mr David Kimche, the Director-General of Israel's Foreign Ministry, is holding a series of talks with American officials.

Confirmation that Israel is planning to consolidate its troops, in an attempt to cut down on its casualty toll, was given in a television interview by Mr Moshe Arens, the Defence Minister, who did "not expect" Israeli troops to be in Lebanon for another winter.

On the key issue of redeployment, Mr Arens made it clear that Israel's decision was not conditional on American agree-

ment. "We are thinking, and planning, and beginning to discuss the subject with elements with whom there has been cooperation," he explained. He also hinted at the possibility of new Israeli retaliatory raids against guerrilla bases still in Lebanon.

The main Israeli goal is to ensure that the vacuum left by the exit of its men from the troubled Chouf mountains is not filled immediately by the Syrians, or by reformed guerrilla units. The present discussions are aimed at determining that "friendly forces" will enter the area.

Plans under review are understood to centre around an extended use of a possibly reinforced multinational force and a wider deployment of the still weak Lebanese Army.

● *Ethnic 'critical'*: Mr Simcha, the Israeli deputy Prime Minister, was yesterday in a coma and in a critical condition after suffering a stroke.

## Nerve gas setback for Reagan

From Mohsin Ali Washington

The House of Representatives has turned down President Reagan's request for about \$115m (£77m) to resume production of nerve gas and other chemical weapons.

There has been a *de facto* freeze on the production of such weapons by the United States for the past 14 years.

The Democratic-controlled House on Wednesday rejected by 216 to 202 a compromise proposal to begin production of the new binary weapons on October 1, 1985. Instead it voted by 256 to 161 to continue the moratorium on production of chemical weapons.

Mr Reagan had lobbied Congress vigorously to approve about \$1,000m for chemical warfare in the 1984 budget. Of this \$11m was sought for production of binary chemical weapons, which mix two relatively harmless chemicals in flight to produce nerve gas.

The House on Wednesday, however, approved the remainder of the funds for defensive equipment in any chemical warfare.

The Republican-controlled Senate is likely to approve the President's request for production funds. But the whole matter would then have to be fought out in "conference" between the Senate and House.

## W German celebration turns sour

From Michael Binyon Bonn

Today is the thirtieth anniversary of the uprising in East Berlin, when groups of workers protesting at the higher work norms decreed by the East German authorities rose up in revolt against the Soviet occupying forces and were quickly suppressed by the tanks of the Soviet Army.

Since then June 17 has been celebrated in West Germany as a national holiday in affirmation of the concept of German unity. This year, however, the occasion, which has already begun to seem anachronistic to most West Germans, has become a point of bitter argument between those who insist on a formal re-statement of the goal of German unity and those who believe such declarations to be provocative and outdated.

A recent poll showed that about 71 per cent of the West German population now believe formal unity with East Germany is no longer possible. A large percentage also believed that relations between the two states could be improved only by talks and negotiations.

Left-wing politicians have called for the dropping of June 17 as a national day, saying West Germany should more appropriately celebrate the anniversary of the federal republic's foundation in May, 1949. Dr Helmut Kohl, the Chancellor, insisted that the anniversary should still be observed as the proof of the unbreakable will of all Germans for reunification in unity and freedom.

The flashpoint of the celebrations today will be Berlin, where the uprising took place and where the East-West division is most visible. A torchlight procession to the Wall is planned for this evening by a right-wing organisation "Con-servative Action" and this threatens to provoke counter-demonstrations by left-wingers. The marchers will also go to Kreuzberg, the run-down area of West Berlin where the large colony of Turks is based, and the demonstrators will carry banners and shout slogans calling on the Turks to return to their homeland.

Herbert von Weizsäcker, the ruling mayor, has denounced the march as an unnecessary provocation. The anniversary is being ignored in East Germany.

## Long live the Princes - in error

The Prince and Princess of Wales yesterday visited Shelburne, Nova Scotia, which is celebrating its bicentenary. The town was originally settled by Americans loyal to the British crown who were persecuted after the American War of Independence.

But the Prince made a promise that will be hard to keep: After unveiling a commemorative plaque he said, "I hope that we can send our son William back here to celebrate your tercentenary."

The only problem will be that by then Prince Charles will be aged 134 and his son will be 101. The Prince seemed to have realized his mistake and smiled sheepishly as soon as he had said it.

## Trains stop to foil Sikhs

Chandigarh (AFP) - All train services in Punjab today have been cancelled to counter plans by Sikh activists to block the railways in protest at the Indian Government's refusal to accept their political and religious demands.

An estimated 450 Sikhs were rounded up and further arrests were expected. The leadership of the Sikh Akali Dal party had ordered its 100,000 volunteers to squat on the railway lines and sing Sikh hymns for six hours.

## Husband gave wife bullet

Lyons (AFP) - Evelyne Muxart, 20-year-old French housewife, woken by a sharp noise in the night, noticed a trace of blood in her hair. She got up, washed it off and returned to bed with her husband.

Next day a violent headache would not wear off and finally, 10 days later, she went to the doctor. X-rays showed a .22 bullet in the top of her skull. Her husband, Bernard, 30, awaits trial for attempted murder.

## Sirhan regret



Sirhan Sirhan (above) the assassin of Senator Robert Kennedy, told a parole board at Soledad, California, that he was being punished as a political prisoner. He said he had been drinking when he killed Senator Kennedy in 1968 and now regarded his death as a tremendous loss.

## Ferry sinks

Jakarta (Reuters) - More than 80 Indonesians were feared dead after an inter-island ferry carrying schoolchildren sank in the Banda Sea south-east of Sulawesi, (formerly Celebes).

## UN stays on

New York - The UN Security Council extended for a further six months the mandate of its peacekeeping force in Cyprus and urged the Greek and Turkish Cypriots to continue their search for a political settlement to the dispute.

## Off the hook

Cairo (Reuters) - Charges of nepotism and corruption against Fawzi Ibrahim Abu Agla, former Minister of Industry, dismissed in March after a \$100m scandal involving members of the late President Sadat's family, have been dropped for lack of evidence.

## Reagan rebuff

Moscow (AFP) - President Reagan failed to reply to a letter from a Soviet schoolgirl, Tatiana Fomina, asking him what he planned to do for world peace, the newspaper *Pravda* said.

Her letter sent in January to "President Reagan, White House, Washington, USA" was returned with a stamp indicating the address was incomplete and the addressee unknown.

## Will challenged

Key West, Florida (Reuters) - Mr Walter Dakin Williams, aged 64, brother of the late Tennessee Williams, filed for revocation of the playwright's will, charging he was not mentally competent when he signed it in September, 1980. In an earlier will, Mr Dakin Williams was the primary beneficiary of the estimated \$11m estate.

## Rugby alert

Wellington (Reuters) - Extra police will be on duty at tomorrow's Rugby Union international here between the British Lions and the New Zealand All Blacks. Protesters are expected against plans by the New Zealand Rugby Union to go to South Africa next month for invitation matches.

## Air Force officer wrote message in own blood

From Stephen Taylor, Harare

A white Zimbabwe Air Force officer who slashed his wrist in a police cell wrote a message in his own blood as a sign of his innocence in the sabotage of an aircraft. The High Court here was told yesterday.

Air Lieutenant Barrington Lloyd, giving evidence for the defence in the second day of the Thornhill sabotage trial, said that, after being subjected to electric shock torture which he believed was likely to continue, he had decided to commit suicide.

The officer said he had barricaded his cell before slashing a wrist with broken glass from his spectacles. He did not want his suicide to be interpreted as a confession and wrote in his blood on the cell floor, "CID torture with batteries."

Air Lieutenant Lloyd is the fifth of six accused Air Force officers, all of whom have denied complicity in the sabotage of aircraft.

On Wednesday the officer, aged 31 and born in Manchester, testified that during the course of his interrogation police had offered him a bribe of £25,000 to become a future President of Kenya.

His remarks were greeted with applause, but Mr Njomo, who was present throughout the 90-minute debate, challenged Mr Mtshali to repeat his remarks outside parliament, where he would not be covered by parliamentary privilege.

The debate was reported prominently in all the Nairobi newspapers yesterday. It was raised as an urgent issue by a backbencher MP over reports of a church service in Mr Njomo's rural constituency near Nairobi last weekend, at which prayers were said for President Moi and for peace.

When the acting Speaker at first refused to allow the debate, most MPs walked out, leaving the House short of a quorum. Later in the day the issue was raised again, and the Speaker allowed the debate to go ahead.

Many members said the church service, which attracted 3,000 people, was partly political, and alleged that it was intended to demonstrate support for Mr Njomo against his opponents.

Mr Njomo, speaking with difficulty over interruptions, said he attended the church service but took no part in it. He said the debate was based only on a press report of the service. He said he had always been loyal to President Moi.

Minister, Z\$5,000 (about £3,400) in foreign currency and an air ticket to anywhere he chose, if he would give state's evidence.

On another occasion earlier this year, he said, he was brought to Harare for a meeting with Mr Godfrey Chidyaukutu, the Attorney General, and Mr Honour Mkhushi, who is appearing for the state in trial, and was again asked to testify for the state in return for immunity. Air Lieutenant Neville Weir, the sixth accused, had also been at the meeting and had been made a similar offer. They had both refused.

Air Lieutenant Lloyd said he had been detained soon after the sabotage and then released. During 15 days at liberty he had been urged by relatives to flee the country.

"I rejected it out of hand," he said, "I was an innocent man." During the days of intensive interrogation after his second arrest, the officer said he was told that Air Marshal Norman Walsh, who retired as commander of the Air Force on the day the trial started, was involved in the sabotage and told the Air Force Board of Inquiry was a cover-up.

## Kenya MPs in 'traitor' rumpus

From Charles Harrison Nairobi

In an often noisy parliamentary debate, Mr Eliud Mwangi, Minister for Tourism and Wildlife, said Mr Charles Njomo, Minister for Constitutional Affairs, was the target of recent suggestions that a "traitor" was being groomed by a foreign power to become a future President of Kenya.

His remarks were greeted with applause, but Mr Njomo, who was present throughout the 90-minute debate, challenged Mr Mtshali to repeat his remarks outside parliament, where he would not be covered by parliamentary privilege.

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## Tear gas on Soweto anniversary

From Michael Hornsby Soweto

Police used tear gas to disperse several thousand blacks as they emerged from a service at the Regina Mundi Catholic Church here yesterday, commemorating the seventh anniversary of the start of the Soweto riots which left more than 600 people dead across South Africa.

A senior police officer, Colonel Leon Mletet, said the police had moved in to counter sporadic stone-throwing by small groups of blacks, and that some skirmishing was still going on late in the afternoon. The rioters had stoned two buses and set a third on fire. They also damaged a police vehicle.

In a later statement, the Public Utilities Transport Corporation announced that it had stopped its buses when entering the central areas of Soweto as a result of the clashes, and that 30 vehicles had sustained broken windows.

Blacks still inside the church, who were able to speak on the telephone, said the police had broken down the doors and hauled worshippers outside. They arrested a number of them, including Mr Lybon Mabasa, the president of Azapo (African People's Organisation), the leading Blacks Consciousness group.

As people left the church they were singing freedom songs and shaking clenched fists. According to police estimates, some 4,000 people attended the service, and another 1,000 gathered outside. The police would not say how many were arrested.

Homeless loophole, page 10



## Bomb terror in Turkish bazaar

A Turkish policeman calling for help as he carried a wounded youth from the sixteenth-century covered bazaar in Istanbul after a grenade and gun attack yesterday by two unidentified terrorists.

One of the attackers died when he fell on his own grenade after being shot by police, Rasit Gurlek writes. Two people, including a 13-year-old boy, were killed and 23 people injured in the attack and subsequent shoot-out. The second attacker escaped into the crowded bazaar.

Eye-witnesses said that the terrorists were Armenians. If this is confirmed, the attack is the second such terrorist action in Turkey within a year. In August last year a

suicide commando of the "Armenian Secret Army for the Liberation of Armenia" (ASALA) raided the Esenboga airport here, killing nine people and injuring more than 70.

One of the terrorists was killed by the security men and the other, Levon Ekmejian, captured during the raid, was hanged earlier this year after his trial.

The Armenian underground organisations have so far killed 33 Turks, mostly diplomats, in a 10-year campaign to avenge the alleged massacre of mass deportation of 1.5 million Armenians by the Ottoman Turks in 1915.

Turkish governments have rejected the accusations of genocide.

## Moroccan local poll rigged, parties claim

From Godfrey Morrison Rabat

Morocco's Parliament was summoned to meet late yesterday to hear the Government's response to allegations that last week's local elections were rigged.

The charges that the authorities manipulated the poll have come not only from the communist Parti du Progres et du Socialisme and the socialist Union Socialiste des Forces Populaires but also from the Istiqlal, the second largest party in the government coalition.

The conduct of the elections has also been criticised by the Rassemblement National des Independants, the biggest party in Parliament, which has been widely called "His Majesty's loyal opposition". It is led by Mr Ahmed Osman.

## Channel sludge dumping halted by Greenpeace

By David Nicholson-Lord

Greenpeace, the international environmentalist group, yesterday forced abandonment of the dumping of toxic sludge in the English Channel off Le Havre after volunteers in diving gear swam on the sludge in inflatable beds.

Six crew members from the Greenpeace vessel *Sirius* boarded the dumping barge five miles from Le Havre and later, backed by about 20 fishing boats from French channel ports, immobilized it by tying its anchors. The French barge company yesterday refused to continue with the dump.

The action was mounted in protest at the dumping of toxic metals at Le Havre and five other sites, which Greenpeace says is polluting the southern North Sea.

## Copper strike challenge to Pinochet regime

Santiago (Reuters)-Chile's powerful

Confederation of Copper Workers (CTC) has called a national 24-hour strike for today to demand the release of Senator Rodolfo Seguel, its president.

The illegal strike call is the most serious labour challenge to the rule of President Augusto Pinochet since he came to power in a military coup nearly 10 years ago.

Senator Hugo Estivalde, the union's acting president, told journalists that even before the strike workers in one division had voted to strike from 8am yesterday for 48 hours.

A Chilean judge ruled on Wednesday that Seguel, who was arrested after a day of violent anti-government protests on Tuesday, would stay in custody while he investigated

new charges against him.

Senator Seguel is president of the Workers' National Command of five labour organizations including the CTC, which called for peaceful protests that turned into widespread rioting in Santiago after dark.

A boy aged 15 was shot dead and several people received bullet wounds. Many were injured as riot police used tear gas, water cannon and batons to break up crowds.

Because the CTC is itself made up of many unions, labour analysts said a positive response to the strike call from them all was unlikely.

The copper industry is the mainstay of Chile's economy, accounting for almost 10 per cent of its gross domestic product.

Leading article, page 11



# Summit must take radical decisions to save EEC from terminal decline

From Ian Murray, Brussels

The whole future of the European Community is at stake when leaders of the 10 member states meet in Stuttgart this afternoon.

With the EEC staring bankruptcy in the face and Mrs Thatcher intent on forcing her reluctant colleagues to agree to a substantial refund in Britain's contributions, this summit will have to take radical and far-reaching decisions if the Community is not to stagnate.

Time and money are both running out and unless the 10 leaders resolve to put an end to the indecisiveness which has characterized the EEC increasingly in recent years, there are fears in Brussels that the EEC could begin to unravel.

Mrs Thatcher and her insistent demand for a British budget rebate can be relied on to concentrate the minds of the other heads of government on the urgency of the problem. She will not be content with anything less than a negotiable cheque made out in Britain's favour.

If she does not get it, she will certainly precipitate the "extremely serious situation" threatened by Sir Geoffrey Howe, her new Foreign Secretary, after a very inconclusive round of talks with other Foreign Ministers on the subject last Monday in Luxembourg.

The amount at issue is likely to be about £280m. This is the difference between the £530m Britain feels it deserves and the £250m which is the most France appears likely to concede. The amount at issue is thus tiny compared with the Community's £15,000m budget.

The hard and wearisome negotiations will have to be concentrated into the first half of the meeting, since President Mitterrand intends leaving at luncheon tomorrow to take part in ceremonies commemorating the forty-third anniversary of the EEC.

sary of General de Gaulle's radio broadcast from London in 1940, which led to the creation of the Free French movement.

The argument will not be made much easier by the paper being put forward by the West German presidency for decision at the meeting. This is essentially nothing more than a resume of the discussions in Luxembourg last Monday, plus a return of West German compromise conclusions aimed at finding ways for saving money inside the Community.

This approach can into considerable opposition in Luxembourg and there is little to indicate it will receive a more favourable hearing in Stuttgart. Brussels diplomats believe that the weakness of the paper reflects a power struggle inside the West German Cabinet between Herr Gerhard Stoltenberg, the money-conscious Finance Minister, and Herr Hans-Dietrich Genscher, the Foreign Minister.

Beyond trying to get agreement on the rebate, Mrs Thatcher will also be pressing for swift action to reform the financing of the Community.

She will be urging the British view that a series of extra Foreign Ministers' meetings will have to be arranged between now and Christmas in order to agree necessary changes, including measures to cut agricultural spending.

Year	Total EEC budget	Britain's net contribution	Rebate
73	2,198	102	31
74	2,177	101	31
75	2,612	102	31
76	3,529	107	31
77	4,208	109	31
78	5,208	122	31
79	5,338	147	31
80	6,685	153	31
81	10,184	157	31
82	11,489	147	31

\* The sharp increase in 1979 is due to a drop in the value of the pound as well as to increased spending.

This idea is expected to run into stiff opposition from a number of countries, but the fact that the EEC looks as though it cannot avoid bankruptcy next year, unless decisions are taken quickly means there could be grudging agreement on such a system of meetings.

This would add a considerable work-load to Foreign Ministers, who are also likely to be asked to speed negotiations for Spanish and Portuguese entry.

The other really contentious issue at the meeting is the proposal drawn up jointly by Herr Genscher and Signor Emilio Colombo, the Italian Foreign Minister, who seeks to create a greater sense of European union.

Herr Genscher is hoping to crown the West German presidency with the signature of this "solemn declaration", as it would be known, by the summit on Saturday, before President Mitterrand leaves.

Since Denmark and Greece still have strong objections to the paper, there could still be prolonged argument on it and this would add into the time available for discussion of the financial problems.

There will also be some pressure for the summit to revive the EEC's dormant Middle East initiative and to see if there is any way in which it can influence events in Lebanon.

Having been criticized for bad preparation of the March summit, which took place just after the West German elections, Chancellor Helmut Kohl has put together a daunting agenda for Stuttgart.

Despite the fact that it is to continue over three days, there is a prevalent view in Brussels that the meeting will not have enough time to take the decisions the EEC desperately needs.

## Supreme Soviet in unison



Block vote: Mr Andropov waits impassively as Politburo members elect him President. With him (left to right, front to rear) are Dimitri Ustinov, Nikolai Tikhonov, Victor Grishin, Dinmukhamed Kanayev, Vladimir Shcherbitsky, Boris Ponomarev and Geidar Aliyev.

## Acclaim for Andropov amid the gloom

From Richard Owen, Moscow

It was not a joyous occasion, nor did Mr Yuri Andropov look particularly pleased at being elected President.

There was a faint echo of the excitement which briefly gripped the normally moribund Supreme Soviet last November, at a time when it appeared likely that Mr Andropov was going to become head of state immediately after being appointed party leader. But only an echo.

Mr Konstantin Chernenko, his ruddy face topped by a shock of white hair, walked with an air of self-assurance to the podium and declared, without any great enthusiasm, that Mr Andropov had been unanimously nominated Chairman of the Praesidium (State President).

He said Mr Andropov was an outstanding leader of the Leninist type. Mr Andropov sat in his seat on the platform behind, expressionless.

Behind him, a statue of Lenin looked down from its niche, equally expressionless.

Mr Chernenko went back to his seat, four places along from Mr Andropov in the front row, and stood for a moment during the applause, finally easing himself down.

Along the row, Mr Andropov permitted himself a slight smile and inclined his head to exchange a word or two with Mr Nikolai Tikhonov, the Prime Minister.

Earlier, Mr Andropov had walked unaided but unsteadily on to the platform from the wings, holding the backs of chairs as he skirted his way round to the front row.

He rose in his seat and spoke into microphones on the desk in front of him, his voice sounding curiously thin and distant. He sat down to general acclaim.

Across the aisle, candidate Politburo members who had not been promoted this week at the Central Committee Plenum sat looking glum. Mr Piotr Demichev, the Minister of Culture, stared into space, perhaps contemplating the ideological tightening-up demanded of him by Mr Chernenko and Mr Andropov.

Mr Vladimir Dolgikh, apparently destined to be the eternally up-and-coming Industrial Organizer, chatted to Mr Mikhail Solomentsev, the thickest Russian Federation Premier.

In front of them, the presidency finally settled, Mr Andrei Gromyko attacked the United States and accused the West of trying to subvert Poland. Once himself a candidate for President, Mr Gromyko appeared happier embodying Soviet foreign policy, as he has done for 26 years.

## Moscow intellectuals fear turn of the screw

From Our Own Correspondent

Moscow intellectuals say their fears of an ideological tightening-up have been realized after headline speeches this week by Soviet leaders.

At the two-day session of the Central Committee in Moscow, both Mr Yuri Andropov and Mr Konstantin Chernenko attacked ideological shortcomings in the arts, sciences and the media, and said more stringent controls would be imposed.

"A cold wind is blowing through our intellectual life," one writer commented, "and the best thing to do is keep our heads down for a while".

Soviet officials have been waiting since last November for definitive guidance from the Andropov leadership on cultural matters. Now that it has

been given, in the first full plenum on ideology for some 20 years, a number of morthodox books, films and plays which have been awaiting the censors' approval are unlikely to see the light of day for the time being.

Both Mr Andropov, who made the closing speech, and Mr Chernenko, who opened the session, emphasized that the Soviet Union would win the East-West "ideological struggle" by force of argument.

Echoing the moderate line taken by Mr Chernenko, Mr Andropov said that socialism would "prove its advantages in peaceful competition with capitalism".

Both men also warned, however, that the West was becoming increasingly aggressive, and that Russia would

respond by stepping up its armed might and intensifying ideological warfare.

Mr Chernenko, in particular, called for a Soviet propaganda offensive to counteract President Reagan's "crusade against communism".

"There can be no respite in the ideological struggle," he remarked. He criticized platitudes, lack of ideals and artistic futility in books, plays and films, and said film-makers seemed to prefer unhappy destinies and whining characters to noble ideals and ideological conviction.

He called on the press to conduct propaganda more effectively and respond to events more swiftly. Mr Chernenko also deplored "negative phenomena" among the young

and said some of them wanted to show off not their knowledge and diligence but expensive things bought with their parents' money.

He attacked writing which idealized God-seeking and the patriarchal way of life. A reference to novels and films which portray the eternal values of the Russian countryside rather than Marxism-Leninism.

The one consolation for more independent-minded intellectuals is that the ideological crackdown - like Mr Andropov's earlier drive for work discipline - might peter out after several months, and that cultural officials will become less vigilant after an initial display of zeal.

Leading article, page 11

## Starvation threat to 65 nations

By Henry Stanhope  
Diplomatic Correspondent

More than half of the world's developing nations will be unable to feed their people by the end of this century, according to a United Nations survey, published today.

As many as 31 of the 51 countries in Africa are likely to be in trouble, while in South-West Asia, where the problem is most intense, only one out of 16 states will manage on its own.

Data about soils and climate in 171 lands was fed into a complex computer programme to produce the "grim conclusion", according to the UN Fund for Population Activities which sponsored the survey in collaboration with the UN Food and Agriculture Organization.

About 65 Third World countries will be unable to produce enough food if their agriculture remains at the level of "peasant farming". But the position of 19 of them would remain critical even if they switched to high-intensity methods with modern fertilizers, pesticides and machinery.

The fund points out in its 1983 report that the world already produces enough food to feed its total population. But the food is not where the people are, which is why there is a butter mountain in Europe, a grain surplus in the United States - and famine in Africa.

Africa, it says, can sustain a total of 1,350 million people by subsistence farming but it is expected to reach a population peak of 2,000 million before levelling out. Yet one country, with help, might be able to feed itself many times over while those in the next-door state starve.

Even in South America, where no country is incapable of feeding itself, people go hungry because of poor distribution. Large areas of the Andes are already over-populated.

These assessments are also based on an assumption that the world's population will total about 6,500 million by the year 2000, compared with 4,500 million now.

As the global population is not expected to stop growing until it reaches 10,200 million around the year 2095, "the implications for food supply can be imagined".

Moreover, it will stop growing only if the size of the average Third World family continues to fall from five children now to the two children born to most women in the industrialized countries. One target is to bring down the rate of infant mortality, since many women in the Third World have more children than they need in the expectation that some will not survive.

Mortality rates in the developing nations have fallen from 164 in every 1,000 live births in 1950 to 90, according to Mr Rafael Salas, the fund's director.

But in some parts of the world the figure is still as high as 150. There is little hope of reducing this to 120 by 1985, which was the target established for 1984 by the International Conference on Population.

## Kohl hoping to keep row in the family

From Our Own Correspondent, Bonn

Chancellor Helmut Kohl said in reply to Mrs Margaret Thatcher's prediction of a "fraternal battle" at the Stuttgart summit meeting that partners usually quarrelled about money, but he hoped that this would remain a quarrel within the family.

Dr Kohl said that no one in Europe was only a paymaster and no one was a recipient of charity. He told the mass-circulation *Bild Zeitung* that a return to nationalist divisions was unthinkable.

The British Prime Minister's remarks in the *Daily Express* have been given wide publicity here, and the German press has made much of the coming conflict it believes the British position will provoke in Stuttgart.

Bonn is probably closer to the British standpoint than most other members of the Community, but Dr Kohl is in the unenviable position of being the

host who has to preside over what is likely to be the roughest summit meeting of the Community for years.

● Minister under fire: A chorus of protest mounted yesterday over assertions by a Christian Democratic Minister that pacifism in the 1930s made possible the mass extermination of Jews at the Auschwitz concentration camp, *Reuter* reports.

Herr Heiner Geissler, the Youth, Health and Family Minister and general secretary of Dr Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, made the remark in a parliamentary debate on Wednesday.

Herr Hans-Jochen Vogel, the leader of the Social Democratic opposition, said in an open letter to Dr Kohl yesterday that the statement was false and intolerable and the SPD would demand Herr Geissler's removal unless he retracted.

## Europe acts to save Ireland's vanishing bogs

By Patricia Clough

While helping Ireland to extract peat on a large scale, the European Community is seeking to help save its last intact bogs before it is too late.

The mission is urgent: the European Parliament was warned that if action was not taken soon the unique ecosystems which have developed over thousands of years in the Irish bogs will vanish in five years.

The Parliament has asked the Commission in Brussels to help with funds, to buy up surviving bogs. The move, steered by concerned Dutch and German MEPs, must come as a surprise to many Irishmen who have traditionally considered bogs as little more than a source of peat for cheap fuel.

But in the report to the Parliament Herr Meinhoff Mertens, a German, said that Ireland was the only country where bogs, once common over north-west Europe, survive in various forms. Basically they are spongy, waterlogged ground with little or no drainage where vegetation, mostly mosses, accumulates indefinitely, forming a layer of peat which in some types of bog is about 50 feet deep.

He said that certain rare bog plants, unique in Ireland, were seriously at risk. Mr Gerald Doyle, a biologist at University College, Dublin, said that the threatened species included *Sphagnum imbricatum*, a rare moss; bog rosemary, black bog rush and *Cacuminum Oxycoccus*, a type of cranberry.

White-fronted geese would be deprived of an important resting-place and occasional wintering place on their migrations between Canada and Europe. The bogs are also a valuable habitat for snipe and grouse.

Not that Ireland is exactly running out of bogs: they cover roughly 2,900,000 acres, or about 17 per cent of total land area. But only about 5 per cent have survived in their rural state. Peat is being extracted at a rate of about 960 acres a year, enough to exhaust commercial supplies in 30 years.

Often the bogs are damaged



Stacking peat, Ireland's only source of domestic fuel

by agricultural drainage, the use of phosphate fertilizers and reforestation near by.

The environment ministers were meeting yesterday approve an environment fund to help Europe's ecologically more endangered areas. But with only £300,000 available the bogs will have to compete with monk seals, brown bears and other deserving causes.

The Parliament wants the

Commission to buy up certain bogs for protection.

It also wants, among other things, funds to create jobs and encourage development in the bog areas. Here it touches on a sore point for up to 6,000 jobs depend on commercial peat extraction in these poor areas. Peat has become important for Ireland, which has virtually no other domestic source of energy.

The Community and its

offshoot, the European Investment Bank, have together given Ireland loans of £26,500,000 to help develop commercial peat extraction.

Saving bogs while extracting peat is not in fact an Irish joke. "There is room for both," Community officials said. "It is quite possible to extract peat from large areas while still preserving the ones that are important."

## Bonn cuts costs - and inequality

From Michael Binyon  
Bonn

How does a government, committed to saving money, raise pensions without increasing contributions and do so in the name of social justice and equality?

Ministers here have just come up with an ingenious answer: abolish sex discrimination among the old, or more bluntly put, make women work another three years before they get their money.

From 1985, according to plans revealed by Otto Graf Lambsdorff, the Minister of Economics, and Herr Norbert Blum, Minister of Labour, the pensionable age for women will be raised from 60 to 63.

Herr Blum insisted this was not a move against women. But it had the clear advantage of saving DM1,400m (£350m) in the years to 1987 and making pensions less costly as the German population ages.

Women have responded with a decided lack of feminist commitment to this move towards equality. The spokesman for women's affairs in the German Trade Union Council called the plan adventurous, and said women should retire at 60 because on the whole by that age the double burden of work and housework meant they were "physically and psychologically finished".

The same spokesman, announcing "important differences in matters of substance" 24 hours earlier, explained that while there had been an agreement on separate issues concerning the bases, the final package did not fully satisfy the Greek Government.

According to diplomatic sources "important differences in matters of substance" can only mean disagreement over the two key issues of the problem - the duration of the bases agreement and the *quid*

## French ballot scandal angers left and right

From Our Own Correspondent, Paris

The annulment of municipal elections in more than 20 French towns, including 16 held by the Communists, due to alleged fraud led yesterday to angry demonstrations by both the right and the left, each accusing the other of political chicanery.

"Assault on universal suffrage" was the outraged headline in yesterday's *L'Humanité*, the Communist Party daily.

while the right-wing *Le Figaro* announced delightedly "Electoral fraud: Communist party caught red-handed".

*Le Figaro* made no mention of the four opposition towns where elections have also been declared null and void, but it is true that the Communists have been pinpointed as the culprits in the great majority of decisions by administrative tribunals where serious fraud, rather than minor electoral irregularities, have been established.

The Communists have long been suspected of ballot-rigging, but never before had it been proved on such a scale. They evidently feel now that their best form of defence is offence.

The series of decisions by the administrative tribunals constitute a political racket the like of which has not been seen for half a century. *L'Humanité* said in a leading article yesterday, M Jack Ralite, one of the four Communist Ministers

in the Government, suggested darkly that the tribunals had been subjected to political pressures.

In a stormy session in the National Assembly on Wednesday, M Andre Lajoinie, leader of the Communist group, accused the Opposition of trying once again to destabilize the Government.

The opposition, for its part, is furious that in certain cases where the elections last March have not only been declared null and void but have actually been reversed by the administrative tribunals, the existing ruling party - in every case, the Communists - is to be allowed to remain in power until the one-month period for the lodging of an appeal to the Council of State has passed.

They consider it scandalous that a party that has been found guilty of fraud should be allowed to continue to lead the council. They are demanding that the Government intervene to hand over power immediately.

In other cases, the industrial tribunals have ruled that the council should be suspended, and that a "special delegation" nominated by the Government should take over the council's affairs until such time as new elections can be held, which must be within three months of the tribunal's ruling.

## Greece tries new formula on bases

From Mario Modiano, Athens

Negotiations about the future of the American military bases in Greece seem to be back to square one, or almost there, after a last-minute hitch on Tuesday prevented an agreement.

A Greek Government spokesman said yesterday that a "comprehensive Greek proposal" for an agreement was delivered to the Americans when the negotiators met last night.

The same spokesman, an-

nouncing "important differences in matters of substance" 24 hours earlier, explained that while there had been an agreement on separate issues concerning the bases, the final package did not fully satisfy the Greek Government.

According to diplomatic sources "important differences in matters of substance" can only mean disagreement over the two key issues of the problem - the duration of the bases agreement and the *quid*

*pro quo* for Greece.

Qualified sources disclosed that the agreed formula was for a five-year agreement terminable by written notice three months before expiry or at one year's notice after that.

The *quid pro quo* included not only £550m (£287m) in military loans for next year, but also a provision that debt repayments should be made in Greek products, plus a promise to help to develop Greek defence industries.



## THE ARTS

## Television

## Hardly a laughing matter

Red Monarch (Channel 4) was described in advance as a "black comedy" which, as a general rule, means that it is not going to be very funny. Certainly the theme, the rule of Josef Stalin, was not propitious: the comic possibilities of a brutal tyrant can generally be counted on the fingers of an amputee. Perhaps Colin Blakeley, who played the central role, was given an Irish accent in the faint hope that an audience would laugh automatically; no such luck.

The idea was clearly to reduce Soviet politics to the level of caricature: a Politburo session is called to discuss disappointing basketball results, Stalin and Mao misunderstand each other in an elaborate manner, and so on. But there is very little point in creating a comic-strip atmosphere if the subject is not particularly comic in the first place.

What *Red Monarch* did was to emphasize the more outrageous or incredible aspects of Kremlin life - and the combination of fear and hypocrisy did have its incredible aspects - but the problem is that, when you render characters comic, you also render them harmless and in certain respects appealing. Even Beria (played gleefully here by David Suchet) had his charms, giving fresh hope to rapists and murderers everywhere.

Colin Blakeley did not look or sound like Stalin, but that hardly mattered under the circumstances. Here was a portrait of a hard-headed peasant whose devotion to his own self-advancement was the juggernaut in front of which his colleagues laid down and died. Mr Blakeley did his best to invest the part with a certain authority and he almost succeeded, but he was in the end unable to work against the side of Jack Gold's direction. When Mr Gold is handling domestic themes, his skittishness and sardonic fantasies are plausible and even appropriate; but they cannot properly be used in alien territory of this kind.

It was, in fact, difficult to discover exactly what was being attempted in the film. The combination of Jack Gold as director and David Puttnam as executive producer sounds unbeatable, and the private life of Josef Stalin must have seemed a good idea at the time, but in practice it proved impossible for those involved to find the right tone.

I suspect that the plan was to create a kind of television Brecht - to conflate seriousness and farce, and place them within the context of a broad historical spectacle. But there was neither depth to the comedy nor intensity in the drama, and what we got instead was a kind of "Stalin Goes Bananas" with the occasional note of "tragedy" just to prove that everyone's heart was in the right place.

Peter Ackroyd

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## Cinema

## Universal appeal of a family truth

Father and Son (PG)  
ICA Cinema

The Year of Living Dangerously (PG)  
Empire 2

Pauline on the Beach (15)  
Academy 2

Personal Best (18)  
Warner West End

House of the Long Shadows (15)  
Classic Haymarket

The Cultural Impotence of Stupid Boys  
ICA Cinematheque

*Father and Son* is a more than remarkable first feature film - even allowing that its director has previously had extensive experience in television - and at once establishes Allen Fong among the first rank of international film-makers. It was made in his native Hong Kong, but as an intimate, low-key, realist film, goes directly counter to all the melodramatic and escapist traditions of Hong Kong cinema. Fong is the latest film artist to show - as Renoir, Ray and Ozu have shown in their time - that it is often in the most localized and personal stories that universal themes and universal appeal are found.

The concerns of his film are familiar to everyone, everywhere: the problems of being a parent and the problems of being a child; the fact that love does not necessarily imply understanding; a father's difficulty in comprehending his son's aspirations

and the son's inability to communicate them. The film is clearly close to autobiography. Born in Hong Kong in 1947, Allen Fong abandoned his college education there to study cinema in the United States, majoring at the University of Southern California. On his return he worked for television until 1979 when he began *Father and Son* with determination: "To say what I wanted to say most in my first film. Most young directors here believe you should start by compromising - you go for the money, the easy commercial success first, then make the movie you've always wanted to. But that time may never come."

The central action of *Father and Son* begins around 1960. The 'Law' family, like vast numbers of other people in Hong Kong, are crowded in a squalid community. The father is a little clerk, conscientious but without qualifications, and so with no hope of promotion, doomed to humiliating penny-pinching to feed his large family.

All his hopes are pinned on his only son, but this son is a constant disappointment. He is a dreamer, his experiments and enterprises invariably lead to disaster, he is thrown out of one school after another, his ambition - inconceivable to his father - is to work in pictures. The son, as he grows from childhood to adolescence, is troubled by his father's sacrifices and disappointments, but knows he cannot change to suit him better. Only when he is departing to study in the United States - it will prove to be their last meeting - do father and son together suddenly recognize that there is a love that surpasses misunderstanding.

It is all done with great delicacy, a rich sense of comedy and an awful truth. There is a painful familiarity about such scenes as that in which the father, remorseful after punishing the child too severely, takes him to a toyshop; but the child's indecision, and the father's price-limits end with them leaving empty-handed and more irritable with each other than before. Emotions are so acutely conveyed that we never feel among people of a different race and culture. Put-upon employees and mischief-



ous little boys are the same the world over.

The most striking merit of *Father and Son* is its absolute simplicity - a quality that takes a lot of confidence in a debutant. Allen Fong is clearly a film-lover as well as a fine filmmaker: he includes a touching homage to Kurosawa's *Living*, the tale of another poor clerk with a dream, and the film is full of recurrent, and endearing, tributes to Charlie Chaplin, the young hero's absolute idol.

Peter Weir is one of the rare present-day directors able to locate private dramas in large-scale historical settings. The great quality of his *Gallop* in this respect was largely overlooked in this country by critics who tried to view it as a war story; it only comes fully into focus seen as a film about Australians and the discovery of nationhood.

The setting of *The Year of Living Dangerously*, based on a novel by C. J. Koch, is Jakarta in the months leading up to the 1965 coup against Sukarno. An Australian journalist - played with attractive fools-rush-in innocence by Mel Gibson - arrives in Indonesia, and at once reacts against the booby and cynical detachment of the rest of the English-speaking press corps. He is befriended by a dwarf

Chinese-Australian news photographer, Billy Kwan, who has an introspective bias, a network of useful contacts in the city and a well-intentioned voyeurism that leads him to keep files on everyone he meets.

Billy - whose desire to manipulate the lives of those he loves is compared both with the dictator Sukarno and the puppet-master of the Wayang shadow show - engineers an affair between Guy and an initially reluctant woman from the British embassy (Sigourney Weaver). The woman's bedroom confidences about political affairs present Guy with the journalist's inevitable dilemma of loyalty.

The romantic elements are the least successful, and lead to a particularly regrettable last scene. The shortcomings are amply compensated though by Weir's ability to combine political thriller and a very lively evocation of the time, place and danger with intelligent reflections on the personal issues of loyalty and conscience. Among the film's other merits must be mentioned Russell Boyd's fine photography - it was shot in the Philippines and Sydney - and the remarkable performance of a New York actress, Linda Hunt, as Billy Kwan.

Pauline à la plage is the third of Eric Rohmer's "Contes et Proverbes" and as charming as *La Femme de l'aviateur* and *Le Beau Mariage*, though so insubstantial that it seems likely at any moment to blow away. It is a comedy of manners and morals, set in a small seaside resort. The action moves between beach promenade and a holiday villa, and centres on three men and three girls. There are couplings, quarrels, misunderstandings, deceptions, reconciliations. At the centre of the group, the schoolgirl Pauline (Amanda Langlet) and her solemn young flame represent true love and a purity that the older ones have lost. Witty written and very prettily photographed, by Nestor Almendros, it is rather like a De Musset one-act taking it easy by the sea.

Personal Best, written, produced and directed by the screenwriter Robert Towne, runs for two hours and seven minutes but would be a lot shorter if all the athletics sequences were not done in slow motion, which is one of the most tiresome bad habits of directors without confidence in their ability to make sports scenes interesting.

The film would be no more than a very conventional Hollywood tale of love on the track but for the mild novelty that the lovers are of

The problems of being a parent and the problems of being a child: Lee Yu-Tin (left) and Shek Lai in *Father and Son*

the same sex. Of course the Hollywood sense of order requires that Mariel Hemingway goes straight in the end and leaves the bed of her pentathlon rival (Patrice Donnelly) for a rather forward water-polo player - which looks a mistake all round: Ms Donnelly, a former track star in her own right, has the greater attraction, both as sports-person and actress.

George M. Cohan adapted *Seven Keys to Baldpate*, a *Mysterious Melodramatic Farce*, from a novel by Earl Derr Biggers of *Charlie Chan* fame. In 1913, it became a regular rep warhorse on both sides of the Atlantic, was five times turned into mediocre films between 1917 and 1947, and would now, one might think, be best left to rest in peace. Having wisely chosen to revive it as *House of the Long Shadows*, however, Peter Walker and his writer Michael Armstrong have still less wisely muddled it about with an Old Dark House family plot and an insulting twist ending.

The only real purpose of the revival is to bring together four old masters of horror - Vincent Price, Christopher Lee, Peter Cushing and John Carradine - some of whom are older than the original play: their combined ages are 280. The old folks are at least professional, which is more than can be said for the sloppy script they have to cope with or the juvenile supporting players.

The adventurous may be tempted by the programme of John Maybury's short films at the ICA Cinematheque. Maybury is a young painter (the intriguing overall title of the programme is one he has already used for an exhibition) who has spread over to Super-8 film-making, and succeeds in conveying very original and personal images to the screen. He attempts a subconscious scrambling of the audio-visual influences and the private anxieties of his generation, coming out of adolescence to the Eighties - sexuality, religion, advertising, old films, Brando, Nijinsky, pop, punk, terrorism. His films, with their electronic musical accompaniment, may madden you, but they are not ordinary or mediocre.

David Robinson

## Theatre

## Exuberant sketches from tragic life

Woza Albert!  
Criterion

Dario Fo's recent London programme contained two medieval comic glimpses of Christ, and the fact that they both crop up in this much-acclaimed Johannesburg Market Theatre production is no accident. Barney Simon, Percy Mtwa and Mbongeni Ngema - the creators of *Woza Albert!* - are working in the ancient tradition of destitute ironist versus brutally authoritarian impostor; and whether it crops up among the starving peasants of the Po Valley, or in the brick yards of modern Soweto, it is apt to yield the best theatre in the world.

As in Fo's sketches, Christ returns to the world and runs foul of the authorities. He also re-enacts the raising of Lazarus, which comes as the climax of the show as he goes on to raise Albert Luthuli, Steve Biko and other heroes of African resistance. But, true to the nature of poverty comedy, even this political gesture is free from revenge fantasy: the tone throughout is one of exuberant good humour, marking the performers' refusal to sacrifice their own humanity no matter how cruelly dehumanized their opponent.

By the same token, Morena (not Lord) is not exactly a great little mover. Clive Gregson comes from the Buddy Holly school of rock performers. In terms of more contemporary visual references, he is a cross between Elvis Costello and Elton John; and when, on Wednesday night, he dismissed all but one of the members of his band and sang a ballad to piano accompaniment, the comparison became even more vivid: "Shot With His Own Gun" met "Your Song" in a workmanlike hybrid of mainstream rock styles.

Three years ago, Any Trouble seemed one of the brighter prospects: Gregson's tart, urgent three-minute songs, his enormously likable voice and the clean beat-group format of the arrangements seemed certain to win them the favour of those who vote the straight Springsteen-Knopper ticket. Despite such outstanding singles as "Girls Are Always Right" and "The Trouble With Love", the anticipated success never materialized; they were hindered, perhaps, by a burst of well-intentioned but strategically premature publicity, arousing unjustified suspicions.

This month they are



Superlative performances: Mbongeni Ngema (left), Percy Mtwa

know you don't like miracles," the imprisoned Mr Mtwa complains, "but these are hard times."

However, it seems that Morena knows what he is doing. He arrives from Jerusalem by Jumbo to rapacious greetings from the Prime Minister, but soon exchanges VIP treatment on Robben Island as a terrorist, before making a jail-break with Gabriel and arising on the third day after a nuclear strike that lays Table Mountain flat.

That is no blemish on the work, given the superlative performances of Mr Mtwa and Mr Ngema. Not only do they act magnificently, running through roughly 100 characters, but they simultaneously enact the props and supply their own sound score: intricate, high-

precision rhythmic patterns, punctuated with reedy instruments and bird calls, all projected simply with hands and voices. When they have an actual instrument, in the shape of an old tea chest, they sound like a full orchestra.

The characters who flash in and out of the fable, from white bosses wearing ping-pong ball noses to the plaintive boy selling Myblown meat, are masterly sketches from life. They raise the roof, and they break your heart.

Irving Wardle

## Rock

Any Trouble  
The Venue

Balding, bespectacled, moon-faced and not exactly a great little mover, Clive Gregson comes from the Buddy Holly school of rock performers. In terms of more contemporary visual references, he is a cross between Elvis Costello and Elton John; and when, on Wednesday night, he dismissed all but one of the members of his band and sang a ballad to piano accompaniment, the comparison became even more vivid: "Shot With His Own Gun" met "Your Song" in a workmanlike hybrid of mainstream rock styles.

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This month they are

**Milstein/Pludermacher**  
Festival Hall

Nathan Milstein is approaching his eightieth year, and on Wednesday he gave his first London recital for 16 years. The air was heavy with perfume and expectation: it may not have been a sell-out, but it was recognizably an event.

Expectation was rewarded by what seemed like two violin recitals in one - three, no doubt, for those who were able to stay for all the encores. The first consisted of Geminiani, Bach and Beethoven; and, for someone who had never heard Milstein live before, here, it seemed, was a man who cared little how much his playing was cared for. Here, he appeared to say, is the music: love it, for its own sake, or leave it.

But music, of course, lives only in its advocacy and, as the violin gradually warmed into life through Geminiani's Sonatas in A and the first movements of Bach's D minor Partita, the essence of Milstein's artistry became almost imperceptibly apparent. The Ciaccona, grew into a massive work on its own, its searing double-stopping acting as a percussive foil to melodic counterpoint as exquisitely varied and balanced in its voicing as if from an entire

Richard Williams

## Concert

string quartet. In its tight compression of minute, expressive detail, this was playing not to task in, but rather what demanded tense, neck-aching concentration.

Beethoven's "Kreutzer" Sonata, too, had that same biting rigour, but tempered by an almost Gallic elegance and restraint which perhaps owed as much to the memory of its dedicatee as to the urbane brilliance of Georges Pludermacher's piano playing. He it was who had the upper hand in the slow movement's variations, moulded with an almost ascetic precision and proportion.

The second recital, after the interval, directed attention overtly to the violin itself, here virtuosity appeared unveiled in Szymanowski, Liszt, Stravinsky and Wieniawski. Szymanowski's first *Mythe*, "La Fontaine d'Arethuse", was drawn with an entirely new, silver-point line, sound at times whistling through the air as if untouched by string or bow.

In his own arrangement of Liszt's first *Mephisto Waltz*, Milstein seemed to embody the spirit of Liszt, Berlioz, and Paganini all in one, while a similarly elusive, even chillingly macabre melancholy drifted from the veiled half-tones of his Stravinsky/Dushkin "Russian Maiden's Song".

Hilary Finch

## Opera

## Delectable lyric streams

La Dori  
Christ Church, Spitalfields

So far revivals of mid-seventeenth-century Venetian opera have naturally favoured Monteverdi and Cavalli, but Pietro Antonio Cesti is in there as well, and catching up. On Wednesday night Musica nel Chiostro, the summer company formed by Adam Pollock for productions in a Tuscan monastery, gave the first performance for 300 years of his *La Dori*, a tale of love and intrigue set in a vague ancient Persia, though neatly and simply moved to a vague modern Arab state in Graham Vick's admirably straightforward staging.

One great virtue of that staging, and of Graeme Jenkins's direction of a small ensemble of strings and continuo, is that nothing interferes with the delectable streams of vocal lyricism that flow unburied through this score. The voice here is sovereign, in very much the way that it is in

late Monteverdi and Cavalli, and Cesti uses too many of the same stock characters and situations: the worldly wise manservant, the wench past her prime but eager for amorous adventure, the assumption of transsexual disguise, the playful toying with homosexual attractions of either kind. Above all, *La Dori* is strewn with the laments that baroque audiences so adored, and this plangent vein makes it an opera of charming sentiment and also distinctly proper morality, for when all the characters are so often reflecting on their wickedness, the pleasures of love begin to look overstated.

It is perhaps also their appealing frailty that makes one keep faith with these people in the face of a plot that is as wooden and full of holes as the Mary Rose. The Egyptian princess Dori, dressed as a man, is in love with the Persian prince Oronte, who is loved by Arsinoe (Dori's sister, though neither of them knows it), who is loved by the Egyptian prince Tolomeo, dressed as a woman. Much hinges on mistaken

identities, even mistaken mistakes. Identities, on conversations overheard, secret positions exchanged, long explanatory dialogues and letters suddenly discovered to reveal all.

No matter. The main point of the thing is to provide plentiful excuses for singing, and the Musica nel Chiostro team includes many young singers well equipped for Cesti's opulent but sensitive lines. Yvonne Lea and Arsinoe and Patricia Rozario as Tolomeo join deliciously in a rapturous duet tinged with homoeroticism that is the music's high point of the score. Brian Giddons as the counter-tenor Oronte and Anne Mason as Dori are obliged to suffer much, always with gentleness of expression and loveliness of voice. There is also a strongly declamatory uncle Artaxerxes from Henry Herford and a touching as well as comic performance from Nuala Willis as the retainer nobody wants to retain. It can all be seen again tonight.

Paul Griffiths

City of London  
Sinfonia/Hickox  
Barbican

Half a century after his death, Gustav Holst remains the most enigmatic figure of his generation of English composers. In his chamber opera *Savitri*, written in 1908 and ingeniously juxtaposed with Purcell's *Dido and Aeneas* by the City of London Sinfonia in their concert on Wednesday, all that is strongest and much that is weak about his art is to be found.

The heated passions which occasionally erupt in the work are reminiscent of *Tristan*, while at the same time its veiled sensuality places it beside *Pelleas*. Obligingly, the musical language itself periodically resembles both Wagner and Debussy.

But it is the force of Holst's own personality rather than the influence of others that dictates the work's success and failure. For, while Holst's brand of oriental spirituality hypnotically permeates *Savitri*, the naivety of such things as the hymn-like tunes which surround the central confrontation between Savitri and Death leaves one in a state of mild shock.

It is an odd jigsaw of a work then, but here it was pieced together skilfully by the cogent direction of Richard Hickox. Felicity Palmer was an assertive Savitri; indeed her voice sounded perhaps too hard for the ardent lover she portrayed. Stephen Varcoe, who sang the part of Death, looked peculiarly conspicuous as he made his entrance bedecked with the unlikely accessory of spectacles and equally improbably making the polite gesture of closing the door behind him. No matter, for after a shaky start he grew into the role, shading his music

with threateningly dark colours and thoroughly relishing his battle of spiritual logic with Savitri.

Philip Langridge as the eventually resurrected husband Satyavan supported admirably, while the playing of the small chamber ensemble and the background contribution of the Richard Hickox Singers added both atmosphere and impetus.

In the Purcell, Miss Palmer's portrayal of Dido began in a rather staid manner, with neither the sense of style of Dame Janet Baker nor the sheer weight of personality of Victoria de los Angeles to help her through "Ah Belinda". But as she became enmeshed in her own tragedy her aloofness was strangely more acceptable, and she paced the final Lament with exquisite judgment.

Of her colleagues, Penelope Walker succeeded in making the Sorcerer a character without caricature for once; Mr Hickox, despite his extreme tempos, was more sensitive to matters of articulation than when I last heard him conduct the piece.

Stephen Pettitt

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# P&O





The odds and the arguments as the death penalty debate resumes at Westminster this week

# Is this a hanging Parliament?

moreover...  
Miles Kington

## A ringside seat for the hatters

With only four months to go to the vital elections for the leadership of the Labour Party, excitement is mounting to migrate, much as in the House of Commons, where it is expected that all two hundred-odd Labour MPs will eventually throw their hats into the ring. In the absence of anything more concrete to talk about, speculation is now rife about the origin of this strange expression, "throwing your hat into the ring".

As with so many features of the Labour Party, explains Lord Causus, the party's archivist, "the derivation is lost in the mists of time, and perhaps best left there. Some say it comes from boxing, where a challenger would throw his hat into the boxing ring; some say it is merely to do with taking your hat off and showing that you have not got a flowing head of white hair and are therefore too old to be leader. One thing is certain: after they have thrown their hats in the ring, most contestants will then pick them up and talk through them, then later pass them round."

Lord Causus, who is 83, is still undecided whether to stand. The current is flowing strongly behind Clive Jenkins, charismatic leader of AMPSTEAD, the thinking man's union. So impressed are people by his feat of forecasting Mr Foot's resignation that a rumour is going round to the effect that he is the reincarnation of Merlin, the fiery Welsh wizard who masterminded many of King Arthur's campaigns. Was there something uncanny about his foreknowledge?

"Not at all," he claims. "A highly modern union like mine is fully switched on to information technology, and I can get my members' opinion on anything just by pressing a button. I asked the question, 'Will Mr Foot resign? Back in a flash came the answer: Certainly, boys. I immediately informed Mr Foot of this, and though he looked surprised for a moment, he took it well and bowed to my superior knowledge.'"

Other trade unions use different methods to judge the wishes of their members, though in no case does it take longer than five minutes or indeed involve bothering the members themselves. Ken Sogal, secretary-general of BASNET, says that they look into the entrails of a freshly slaughtered scapegoat. Ray Aslef, leader of the powerful poll-workers' union MORI, prefers to give Clive Jenkins a ring and see what he thinks, then do the opposite. The 450,000 votes of TARMAC, the massive motorway maintenance workers' union, are usually cast by putting the names of all the candidates in a hat, then throwing the hat in the air.

On one thing all the unions are agreed, though. If the Labour Party is to get away from the image of being out of touch with the rank and file, it is essential that union leaders should carefully decide among themselves what is right for the rank and file, before casting their votes in the electoral college.

The tide is flowing strongly behind Roy Jenkins, who is widely rumoured to have resigned the SDP leadership in order to have a crack at the Labour Party leadership. But there is some confusion over David Steel's comment that he may not lead the Liberals into the next election. Does this mean that he may lead Labour into the future? Do he and Roy Jenkins plan some kind of alliance in their bid for Labour power? Have they both gone stark staring mad?

When asked for his comment at AMPSTEAD headquarters, Clive Jenkins said that first he would just like to say that three million jobs could easily be created overnight simply by the construction of an enormous building programme for the Labour Party contest, and that by chance he had three million enrolment forms for membership of AMPSTEAD lying waiting ready.

Some confusion seems to exist over the nature of the Labour Party's electoral college. Briefly, it is a large, non-voting building set in the lovely Stargill Valley in South Yorkshire, where adult students and enrol for three years in such courses as bridge-building, crack-pottery, grassroots botany, fiery Welsh oratory and studies in compassion. It is hoped to add courses in economics and logic in due course. On graduation, students leave with a diploma though not, as yet, the promise of a job. The promise of 5,000,000 jobs, yes, but not of a job.

The head of the college, Mr Roy Jenkins, says he had not yet decided whether to stand for the leadership contest. Meanwhile, he had heard the story about Clive Jenkins: "Apparently someone gave Clive Jenkins a ring at AMPSTEAD headquarters and Clive automatically threw the ring into his hat. No, he did not know the origin of the expression."

### PUBLIC OPINION

Q. "Do you think the death penalty is ever justified or not?"

Yes, Sometimes 78  
No, never 18  
Don't know 3

Q. "I would like you to tell me whether or not you feel the death penalty would be a suitable punishment for each of the following crimes."

ALL SAYING "SUITABLE" %  
Terrorist murders 78  
Murder of a policeman 74  
Murder of a kidnaper 73  
Murder during an armed robbery 68  
Planned murder of husband or wife 57  
Killing a burglar in one's home 13  
Murder of husband or wife in a fit of rage 12  
Accidentally killing someone during a fight 4

Source: MORI Data, June 1981.

was that the vote would probably be too close to call.

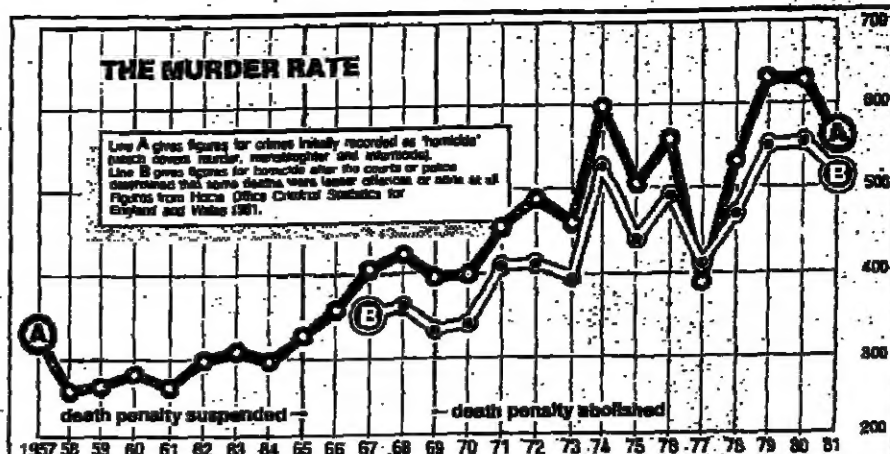
Two problems of the Westminster debate are potentially crucial: the framing of a motion or possible legislation, and the House of Lords. While the new Conservative MPs are heavily in favour of restoration, barely any two of them seem to agree on exactly what it should apply to. The detailed answers to a survey conducted during election week by *The Sunday Times* reveal a wide variation of categories of crime (and not just murder) for which they want it restored. Timothy Wood, the new MP for Stevenage, thought that it should be restored for "crimes of violence". Michael Knowles (Nottingham East) suggested it for "acts of terrorism,

murder". A number think that it should be available as a punishment for armed robbery. Stefan Terlecki (Cardiff West), who says he will be introducing a Private Member's Bill, wants to include "rape (in certain circumstances)".

The bulk of those in favour of restoration mention "terrorism". A typical selection of categories was provided by Mrs Ann Winterton (Congleton), whose questionnaire was actually answered by her husband, Nicholas Winterton, himself already an MP and in favour of capital punishment. Her list read: "Terrorism, murder of police and prison officers, murder resulting from armed robbery."

But should any motion or private Bill attempt to confine capital punishment to terrorism it is in exactly this area that it will meet the stiffest resistance in government. Few soldiers, policemen and officials who watched the hunger strikes in Northern Ireland two years ago are persuaded that the Provisional IRA, or any lesser terrorist group, will be discouraged - let alone seriously deterred - by the prospect of execution if they are caught. That year, 10 men committed slow suicide over periods ranging from 40 to 60 days. Bobby Sands, first striker to die and briefly a Member of Parliament, is now a cult figure.

Even if the House of Commons did pass legislation restoring the death penalty, there is every possibility that there would be a serious clash with the House of Lords. It remains, according to the best estimates, firmly abolitionist. But would the Lords, which in its last debate on the issue preferred not to vote rather than stir up too much controversy, risk a confrontation with the Commons? Or would the Tory viscounts come out of the backwoods



and turn the abolitionist majority among working peers, with the help of an unofficial whip, into a vote for restoration?

To the unguided eye, the arithmetic of the House of Lords can be deceptive. There are, excluding the latest batch of peers, hereditary and life, some 1,181 members, of whom 21 are Law Lords and 335 life peers. There is thus a hefty "hereditary" majority, more than two thirds, most of whom could perhaps be expected to support a Conservative line, if only with a small "C".

But the actual working population of the House is much less, put by one Lords whip at 300 to 350. Of the 1,181, 143 were in the last session also on leave of absence, a device introduced in 1958 requiring notice from those who opt for it of attendance at debates.

According to one Whip's calculation, the importance of such a debate could bring an extra 100 peers into the chamber - say 450 in all, of whom 200 would be Conservative, 100 each Labour and cross-benchers and 60 from the Liberals and the SDP. On a

free vote, the Alliance, Labour and cross-bench peers, it is calculated, would remain massive abolitionist and a big majority for restoration among the Conservatives would be far from assured.

Constitutionally, the position is that laid down for Public Bills by the Parliament Acts. As the nineteenth edition of Erskine May's *Parliamentary Practice* puts it: "A Bill which has been passed by the House of Commons in two successive sessions... and which having been sent up to the House of Lords at least one month before the end of the session is rejected by the House of Lords in each of those sessions shall, on its rejection for the second time by the House of Lords... be presented to Her Majesty and become an Act of Parliament on the Royal Assent being signified."

And the second Thatcher-dominated House of Commons may well be the first House since abolition with the urge to override the veto.

George Brock and David Nicholson-Lord

## Execution and the doctor's dilemma

But the BMA has aligned itself clearly against corporal punishment and has also, as a member of the World Medical Association, supported the WMA's 1975 Tokyo declaration which runs: "A doctor shall not countenance, condone or participate in the practice of torture or other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading procedures, whatever the offences of which the victim of such procedures is suspected, accused or guilty and whatever the victim's beliefs or motives."

One group increasingly anxious about the as yet undetermined position of the BMA on the medical ethics of capital punishment is the newly established Prison Medical Association. Formed only in April, this has some 200 members, less than half of them full-time. The ethical conflict for prison doctors, who traditionally attended the condemned man on the eve of his execution, may be intensified because most of them are thought to support capital punishment.

The dilemma for both chaplains and prison officers is perhaps among the greatest: the former attended a condemned prisoner usually every day up to his execution, while the officers not only, like the governor, had to do execution duty but also served on the so-called "death watch" - a round-the-clock duty in which two officers at all times accompanied the prisoner.

According to one Anglican chaplain with 15 years' experience the "overwhelming majority" of his colleagues would be against the return of capital punishment. "There will certainly be some people amongst us looking for a way of expressing the fact that they could not in conscience take part in what they might view as 'judicial murder,'" he told *The Times*.

The view is shared by the governors' branch of the SCPS, which is taking the prospect of restored capital punishment sufficiently seriously to be planning soundings among its members. Mr Sidney Powell, its secretary and a former governor himself, foresees serious difficulties if governors were forced to attend executions, as in the past, as part of their legal duties.

Those seeking restoration would also do well to consider the adverse effect on prison morale and relationships, acknowledged even by officers who supported the principle of capital punishment and who themselves took part in executions. In the short-term, tension and gloom in the build-up to an execution, particularly in protracted cases which went to appeal, almost invariably erupted into violence albeit rarely involving staff. In the long-term, the effect on staff-inmate relationships was more subtly corrosive.

David Nicholson-Lord

## Queuing for justice on death row

There are 1,161 men and 12 women sitting in the death cells of the United States, and Americans are uneasy and undecided about what should happen to them. Eleven years after the Supreme Court banned noose, chair, gun and gas, and seven years after it reinstated them, the constitutional, legal and moral arguments remain unresolved.

A two-thirds majority of Americans favour capital punishment, according to a poll this year. In the mid-1960s less than two-fifths wanted it. There is widespread concern at the level of violent crime - 18,000 murders a year - and, evidently, a resurgence of the belief that the death penalty deters.

The Supreme Court struck down capital punishment in 1972 as "cruel and unusual". Four years later the death penalty was restored and since then seven men have been put to death, one by the new, clinical method of barbiturate injection to the arm.

Gary Gilmore, of course, asked to be killed in Utah with a firing squad. At least one other man has successfully requested execution.

The normal argument about the death penalty would be familiar to British people. Many are convinced of its deterrent value. Many are not. Many are moved by instincts of vengeance, raw justice and a belief that scaffold and electric chair represent an affirmation of society's mores.

In the United States, however, the argument is complicated by contradictions and the arbitrary nature of the imposition of capital punishment in a vast and varied land. Thirteen of the 50 states have no death penalty at all. Forty-two per cent of those in condemned cells are black, and three

southern states, Florida, Texas and Georgia, have about half the country's death-row population. Many prisoners stay alive because of the permutations of appeal and legal manoeuvres worked by lawyers. "If you're adequately represented you don't get death," a justice official in Florida said recently.

Last month one of the Supreme Court justices who voted with the majority in 1976 to restore the death penalty said execution should be abolished unless courts can find faster and more efficient ways of handling appeals. He said appeal processes and abuses undermine public confidence in justice. "This malfunctioning of our system is unfair to hundreds confined anxiously on death row."

No one can say what will happen to the condemned, clinging to threads of hope in dreary corridors leading to the death chambers. They should die, according to the protagonists of capital punishment. It has been pointed out, however, that executioners would have to kill at the rate of four a day, six days a week, for a year, to clear the backlog. That would, presumably, be unacceptable to the public. But selecting a few to die brings the argument back to the haphazard effect of capital punishment, offensive to American ideas of fairness, and undermines the theory of deterrence.

Trevor Fishlock



Newsmen in Utah near the chair where Gary Gilmore was executed by firing squad in 1977

## For or against, here are the facts

### 2 ARGUMENTS

The Falklands victory and nuclear deterrence will add a new dimension to the debate in Britain about capital punishment after Mrs Thatcher's election triumph. The question sometimes troubling those undecided on the issue is whether the use of the death penalty can be justified for moral ends. Mrs Thatcher's expedition to the Falklands showed that the taking of life to achieve what were then regarded as moral ends became widely acceptable, not only among the general public, but also among MPs. If such action is taken to uphold the law, why should not death be acceptable to achieve enforcement of law at home - a just retribution for the crime of murder?

The argument for using the death penalty as a deterrent has even clearer parallels in nuclear strategy. Mrs Thatcher believes in deterrence by having available nuclear weapons for deployment against the USSR which, if used, would result in widespread death, threatening huge areas of the world if the conflict then escalated. Would it not therefore be inconsistent to favour the use of deterrence abroad, with the threat of indiscriminate killing, and not favour deterrence at home when judicial killing would be discriminate?

Other people feel equally consistently, however, that taking life is immoral, whether in war abroad or in peace at home. Even those who do not go so far would argue that killing murderers reduces the moral stature of the state, and of those who act for it, to the level of the criminal. It should not be necessary to demonstrate by capital punishment that killing is wrong, particularly as a form of communal retribution. Imprisonment is enough to protect the public.

Aside from the moral arguments, does deterrence against murder work? Statistics are seized on by both sides to support their cause. Their value depends upon which ones are used.

Undoubtedly, homicide has been increasing. (The term covers murder, manslaughter and infanticide, for which the maximum penalty is life imprisonment). The latest government statistics show that the total number of offences initially regarded as homicide in the 10-year period 1972 to 1981 was about 50 per cent higher than the figure for 1962 to 1971. Over the same period, the number of other more serious offences of violence against the person increased by about 55 per cent - slightly more than homicide offences.

The death penalty for murder was abolished in November 1965, and abolitionists favour the use of statistics from just before and after that date. Murderers known to the police were 122 in 1963, 135 in 1964 and 135 in 1965, whereas after abolition the figures were 122 in 1966, 134 in 1967

and 148 in 1968. According to a Home Office study, the drop in 1966 and the sharp rise in 1967 were largely accounted for by murderers who subsequently committed suicide.

A later Home Office study covering 1967-71 concluded that the pattern for murder was very similar to that found in previous years. Most of the victims were closely associated with the suspects and were killed for personal or emotional reasons, especially rage, quarrels and jealousy.

The term "abnormal murder" is used to describe cases where the killer is found to be insane or has committed suicide. If those cases are left out of the calculations, the number of victims of "normal murders" were 59 in 1963, 76 in 1964 and 77 in 1965. After abolition, the figures continued to rise to 88 in 1966, 90 in 1967 and 96 in 1968. The Home Office report says that normal murders showed a marked rise in 1964 and a continuous rise since. "No reason for this is known," the report says, "as there was no change in law and practice between 1963 and 1964 that might account for it."

However, those in favour of the death penalty would argue that, regardless of fluctuations before abolition, figures since have shown a rise, whether one takes the crude homicide figures or the refined figure in the Home Office report. A rise before abolition does not mean that abolition necessarily had no effect on figures after it. But for it, they might have been lower, they claim.

One sinister development which can be seized on by the death penalty lobby is the increased number of people previously convicted of homicide who have since killed again. The numbers (in brackets) since 1971 (1) are as follows: 1972 (0), 1973 (2), 1974 (2), 1975 (2), 1976 (3), 1977 (5), 1978 (4), 1979 (5), 1980 (0) and 1981 (4). In addition one suspect in each of the years 1974, 1977 and 1978 had previously been indicted for murder and found insane. One suspect of homicide in 1981 who had also previously been convicted for it committed suicide.

Against this, abolitionists can point out that in 1981 about 3,800 people who had been convicted for homicide at some time in the preceding 30 years were alive and free to walk the streets of England and Wales.

For many, however, the clinching argument against the death penalty derives from the United States and detailed statistical research done there by Professor Walter Reckless.

He concluded that after studying many sources of information there was "no evidence that the absence or non-use of the death penalty increases murder; and no evidence that the presence or liberal use of the death penalty deters capital offences."

Peter Evans

Home Affairs Correspondent

### CLAIM AND COUNTER-CLAIM

#### FOR

- There is a big increase in homicide.
- Terrorist killers deserve death, which will deter.
- Freed killers have killed again.

#### AGAINST

- Abolition made no difference to the figures.
- Terrorists seek martyrdom - as H-Block hunger-strikers showed.
- Imprisonment is sufficient punishment.

### 4 AMERICA

There are 1,161 men and 12 women sitting in the death cells of the United States, and Americans are uneasy and undecided about what should happen to them. Eleven years after the Supreme Court banned noose, chair, gun and gas, and seven years after it reinstated them, the constitutional, legal and moral arguments remain unresolved.

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### CONCISE CROSSWORD (No 84)

ACROSS

- 1 Hair (7)
- 2 Foul dirt (5)
- 3 Atmosphere (3)
- 4 After 1945 (7)
- 5 Board vehicle (5)
- 6 Penalty (4)
- 7 Protection (7)
- 8 Legitimate possessor (8,5)
- 9 Of Freemasonry (7)
- 10 Incestuous (4)
- 11 Girl's name (5)
- 12 Foolish (7)
- 13 Naval drink (3)
- 14 Remained upright (5)
- 15 Wader (7)

DOWN

- 1 Clad (4)
- 2 Very much (Music) (5)
- 3 Metal mug (6,7)
- 4 Rowed (5)
- 5 Innocent (4,4,5)
- 6 Middle Eastern country (7)
- 7 Inn (8)
- 8 Facial contortions (8)
- 9 Nazi police (7)
- 10 Ascend (5)
- 11 Name (5)
- 12 Religious painting (4)

SOLUTION TO No 83

ACROSS: 1 Savas 5 Abrupt 8 Top 9 Pierce 10 Regina 11 Menu 12 Sanction 13 Gallon 15 Sarong 17 Low grade 20 Cox 22 Tsarna 23 Emerge 24 Foe 25 Albert 26 Nestle

DOWN: 2 Trice 3 Virtual 4 Stetson 5 Apron 6 Right 7 Pontoon 14 Arousal 15 Shebeen 16 Rickets 18 Grape 19 Abate 21 Angel

(SOLUTION TO No 84 on Monday)

Recommended dictionary is the New Collins Concise



A SPECIAL REPORT

# Private health

A new relationship, or running repairs for the affluent?

George Hill reports

"We shall continue to encourage... private health insurance... this valuable supplement to state care", the triumphant Tories declare in their election manifesto - a commitment likely to attract much speculative attention at home and abroad in coming months. It gives little away as to ways and means, and Conservative leaders were at pains during the election campaign not to enlarge on the subject and give currency to alarmism about plots to dismantle the NHS.

Until the election was settled, private planners could not be sure whether the spectacular recent expansion of health provision outside the NHS was an ephemeral growth or the start of a new relationship between the state sector and the rest. The Labour Party, committed by its conference last year to an outright abolition of private medicine (a threat watered down in the manifesto) would have provided a very insecure environment for risk-takers in the next few years. Now that uncertainty is out of the way.

But that does not mean anything resembling the sudden upsurge of a few years ago is likely to resume. In five short years the number of people covered by private health insurance almost doubled, while turnover more than trebled. Optimistic observers began to hazard hopes that numbers might be three times as high again by the mid-eighties. Those predictions look lame now, and the slowing-down of growth that occurred after 1981 had causes more profound and intractable than doubts over the coming election.

As often happens following a great expansion, a period of adjustment to new problems, and of intervention by new forces attracted by new opportunities. The state of private health care has never been so diverse or so fluid, and high hopes have to be set against very real fears.

The expansion was mainly a consequence of two once-for-all developments. The prime impetus is to the credit of the 1974 Labour Government: its attempt to extirpate private beds from the NHS forced the insurance associations to set about providing more facilities for themselves. At the same time private employers became alive to the advantages of block health insurance schemes as a discount for their employees and their dependants. These successes encouraged more directly profit-minded developments to enter the market.

The scramble to provide beds has by now more than compensated for the loss of NHS beds in some parts of the country and under the Conservatives the decline in NHS private beds has itself been reversed. Once the country's largest employers had set up discount schemes, growth in recruitment began to decline. Medical costs have risen faster than general inflation, the new clients have begun to exercise their right to make claims, and the shortage of beds threatens to turn into a problem of oversupply.

The prospect of rich pickings has attracted entrepreneurs who are prepared to compete robustly by undercutting premiums and offering "loss leaders". Sharper competition and tighter margins are bound to force insurers to grow more sophisticated in their actuarial planning and in their audit of treatments and hospitals. An instability threatens in which there may be losers as well as gainers.

Whether this more aggressive market will snatch many more customers depends more on outside influences than internal ones. In principle, of course, the prospects for expansion are immense. The privately insured sector still covers only a fourteenth of the population, while the NHS, which covers everybody, is as popular a national object of affectionate and not-so-affectionate grumbling as mothers-in-law.

Yet the insurance principle has remained surprisingly narrow in its ambit. It has scarcely even touched what is, in fact, the main area of private health provision outside the NHS - that of clinics and nursing homes for the chronically sick and the old.

If the service offered by the NHS became markedly less attractive, the private sector might be able to compete on a wider front. Since public spending is very likely to rise faster than national output, the possibility of more constraints, more hospital closures, more increases in prescription charges is not remote. But against the same background of filtering prosperity, the costs to the private sector of adapting to provide a more comprehensive service (medically and geographically) would be so high that it might inhibit a shift.

A significant realignment depends on outright inducements from the Government. The private sector would have to grow dramatically before its effect in permitting savings on public expenditure could be anything but marginal (even marginal savings are welcome in hard times, however). On ideological grounds the Government would certainly like to see an expanding private sector, but it is effectively committed to retaining the basic present structure of NHS financing, and is evidently well aware of the political dangers of being seen tampering with it. It has stuck to its market principles in allowing charges in the NHS private treatment to rise steadily in response to costs. It has not yet responded to appeals from the industry to widen the tax exemptions for premiums.

Up to now, the official emphasis has been on cooperation rather than rivalry. That is realistic, and in the best interests of both sides. There is much that the private sector does - and much more that it could do - through sharing staff and technology to bring benefits to NHS patients. The partnership can give the customer wider choice and draw more funds into health care than governments would dare

squeeze out in taxes. It provides too small and limited a service to constitute a serious rival to the NHS, making it possible for it to be starved of political attention and resources.

At what level it might become a threat it is hard to say. Earlier in the last Parliament, before the election began to cast its shadow, Think Tank rumblings and junior ministerial hints raised the possibility of a private sector as much as a quarter the size of the NHS. That would require not a governmental nudge, but a heave. Evidence from other countries offers little to suggest that where insurance dominates instead of tax there is any assurance that medical services will be better in overall quality, economy or even responsiveness to consumer demand. But a private sector which allowed itself to be made a threat rather than a partner to the service used by the majority would one day find itself politically very vulnerable indeed.

Although few would care to put a precise figure on the optimum level of private hospital provision in Britain, few would equally deny that in many areas it is approaching, if it has not already reached, saturation point. The reasons are clear: the fall-off in the Middle Eastern market, the flattening of insurance demand, the continuing surge in medical inflation - two or three times the rise in retail prices - and the temptation of too much new money by over-optimistic forecasts. The results, though less clear, are nevertheless discernible, and point unmistakably to a shake-out.

How many casualties this causes is debatable: what seems certain is that diversity may suffer but efficiency - the delivery of a more predictable health care "product" backed by more money and constantly improving technology - will grow. But casualties are likely to be more than matched by vastly increased experimentation in new types of private hospital care, much of it aimed at cost-cutting. Signs are plentiful of this starting to happen.

Probably as never before, diversity characterizes the private provision of acute medical and surgical beds - what most people mean when they talk about private hospitals. Small, old-fashioned institutions set up by religious orders for the war wounded but now taking fee-paying patients are private hospitals: so are self-proclaimed centres of medical excellence like the American Humana Hospital Wellington, in central London, complete with brain and body-scanners and with room charges of up to £350 daily. Pension funds and City trusts own shares in hospitals; so do, or will, companies like British Caledonian and Grand Metropolitan Hotels; so too, do

## Big money, big business and more patients

Anyone requiring proof that private enterprise is alive and well - wants and all - need look no further than the burgeoning provision of hospital beds for the paying patients. To opponents of private medicine, developments over the past three or four years will have furnished an unedifying spectacle of speculative interests lured on by false reports of a booming industry rushing to make a quick killing. More sympathetic spirits will see a rapid and efficient response to a clearly identified need. Neutrals will probably look to the next two or three years with even greater interest, as a fascinating study of the competitive principle in action.

Although few would care to put a precise figure on the optimum level of private hospital provision in Britain, few would equally deny that in many areas it is approaching, if it has not already reached, saturation point. The reasons are clear: the fall-off in the Middle Eastern market, the flattening of insurance demand, the continuing surge in medical inflation - two or three times the rise in retail prices - and the temptation of too much new money by over-optimistic forecasts. The results, though less clear, are nevertheless discernible, and point unmistakably to a shake-out.

How many casualties this causes is debatable: what seems certain is that diversity may suffer but efficiency - the delivery of a more predictable health care "product" backed by more money and constantly improving technology - will grow. But casualties are likely to be more than matched by vastly increased experimentation in new types of private hospital care, much of it aimed at cost-cutting. Signs are plentiful of this starting to happen.

Probably as never before, diversity characterizes the private provision of acute medical and surgical beds - what most people mean when they talk about private hospitals. Small, old-fashioned institutions set up by religious orders for the war wounded but now taking fee-paying patients are private hospitals: so are self-proclaimed centres of medical excellence like the American Humana Hospital Wellington, in central London, complete with brain and body-scanners and with room charges of up to £350 daily. Pension funds and City trusts own shares in hospitals; so do, or will, companies like British Caledonian and Grand Metropolitan Hotels; so too, do

hundreds of local GPs, consultants and businessmen.

American and Middle Eastern money has moved in recently to compete with UK sources. Avowedly profit-centred groupings - the British Community Hospitals Group, for example, looks for a 15 per cent return on equity - share the designation "private" with scores of non-profit-making hospitals, many independent and owned by local trusts.

Dominating the field still, and probably most typical of the average insured person's experience of private hospital care, as opposed to the mythology, are the Nuffield Nursing Homes. Last year, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the founding of the Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust, there were 31 hospitals with 1,076 beds, about 12 per cent of the 8,700 figure for private acute beds outside NHS hospitals usually cited by the trade associations. Significantly, the trust has recently devoted increased attention to improving efficiency and generating more finance internally, mainly for upgrading hospitals to keep pace with technology and provide the twin operating theatres now regarded as well-nigh standard in new buildings.

### Good quality, reasonably priced private care

Last year it employed management consultants, increased its surplus from £1.46m to £2.59m and registered modest improvements in figures for length-of-stay and bed-occupancy rates, leading to a 13 per cent increase in the number of patients treated.

But the upgrading task facing the trust, when private health is suddenly big business and big money, is perhaps best illustrated by the policies adopted by BUPA Hospitals - like the trust, started by BUPA to provide good quality, reasonably priced private care mainly for the insured patient.

BUPA Hospitals was launched in 1977 in the face of the Labour Government's threat to private beds in the NHS and with the aim of ensuring private hospital provision for BUPA subscribers. It opened its first hospital at Manchester in April 1981, now runs or manages six, and has four more planned for opening over the next year. Each costs

between £5m and £6m, has two major operating theatres and full facilities for X-ray, pathology, physiotherapy, as well as a pharmacy and out-patient consulting rooms. They are built on sites with scope for further expansion and usually have between 50 and 60 beds. Sixty beds, according to Mr Michael Smith, executive director of BUPA Hospitals, is about right, anything less than 40 is unlikely to be viable. The older Nuffield hospitals, by contrast, average out at 36 beds.

Mr Smith reckons that the BUPA hospitals, which include some interesting joint ventures with both local and national business interests, are more keenly priced and tightly run than much of the American competition, and hence better placed to weather the relatively leaner times in prospect. The group prides itself on its market analyses, its capacity to identify the potential of an area to support private hospital beds, and on its policy of staying out of areas already adequately stocked.

In Edinburgh, however, it is effectively pushing out - albeit by agreement - St Raphael's, a hospital run by a Roman Catholic order which has for years provided the bulk of the city's private surgical beds, but which is now, reluctantly, to close them down. As well as BUPA's proposed Murrayfield Hospital, the city was also faced with a 76-bed proposal from the Hospital Corporation of America - eventually withdrawn by HCA. It thus nearly became one of those areas to have passed saturation point.

Central London is commonly thought to be the chief of these: so too, according to BUPA, are areas like Edgbaston and Solihull in Birmingham where hospitals run by Nuffield, HCA and American Medical International sit in uncomfortably close proximity.

St Raphael's provides a good example of the challenge facing the diminishing group of charities and religious foundations still providing acute care. Set up by the 106-year-old Little Company of Mary after the First World War, it has catered mainly for insured patients in its 30 surgical beds. But it has been confronted with rapid advances in technology and the pace of nursing which were proving too much for the sisters who ran it.

Sister Ignatius, the order's Provincial Superior, says the arrival of a BUPA hospital

Continued on page 4



The best decision he'd ever made.

"Now everyone's got their nose to the grindstone, what we need is a health care company to look after them," said the chairman. His words didn't fall on deaf ears. I searched for a health care company that was aiming to look after us rather than make a profit out of us. I found a company that wasn't going to give away any of our money to shareholders. They hadn't any. Instead, they invest any surplus. Last year the return on this investment helped them open three more medical centres pioneering preventive medicine, and add three more nursing agencies to those they had already. As well as enabling them to build three new hospitals. Here was a company committed to health care. They had branches all over Britain which would help us with advice and prompt service. It came as no surprise when I found that over 30,000 companies, 90 of them in The Times 'top 100', put their company's health in this company's hands. Nor did it come as a surprise when I discovered their name. BUPA. On my recommendation our company joined. Then last Saturday, whilst recovering from his operation, the chairman and I agreed that joining BUPA was the best decision he'd ever made.

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## Peter Hopkirk undergoes a private health check

# Everything you ever wanted to know about yourself

Twenty years ago I approached an eminent Harley Street doctor for a general medical check-up and was politely shown the door. Although young and healthy, I was feeling slightly the worse for wear, having twice that year been the unwilling guest of the secret police, first in Havana and shortly afterwards in Beirut.

Without so much as taking my pulse, the great man told me not to waste his time - or my money. "I can assure you, my boy," he said firmly, that there is absolutely nothing wrong with you."

Of course, he was perfectly right. But it was not an untypical reaction to what many British doctors then viewed as an unhealthy transatlantic pre-occupation with one's health.

Today, however, general health checks, using a whole battery of modern diagnostic techniques, have become respectable. The value of an "early warning" system, despite some die-hard resistance still, is recognized by many. If not most, doctors on this side of the Atlantic.

The vast majority of those "screened" today are sent by their employers, or come via private insurance schemes which offer the facility to their members at concessionary rates. A growing number of companies, including giants like IBM, avail themselves of the services of the several clinics and private hospitals offering general health screening facilities (which, because of the cost, the National Health Service does not).

Indeed, in industry annual check-ups are coming to be regarded by executives singled out for a free health screening as not merely a perk, but a status symbol. Costing around £130 a time (a little more for women, who have additional tests for undetected ailments) it is a clue to the value an employer places on one's health.

An increasing number of individuals, too, are availing themselves of the service as they

learn of its existence. For those living abroad, in tropical or high-risk health areas, additional tests can be included in the screening process.

To find out what progress had been made since my own abortive attempt to obtain a check-up in 1962, I visited the new AMI-run Princess Margaret Hospital at Windsor, which operates a health-screening clinic under Dr Graham Taylor, former Director of Medical Services for British Airways.

A firm believer in preventive medicine, Dr Taylor's early first-hand experience was gained with wartime air-crews, and later from the more exacting requirements of modern airline pilots.

Before any of the battery of scientific tests - on the patient's blood, urine, heart, lungs, etc. - are carried out, he is given an hour-long physical examination and interview by Dr Taylor. Female patients are seen by a woman doctor specializing in preventive medicine, who also carries out gynaecological and other tests.

During his initial session with the patient, Dr Taylor inquires about his work, life-style, family, his eating, drinking and smoking habits, whether he is happy, worried, under any kind of stress, and other relevant details of his personal life. He also needs to know the patient's medical history. Any one of these details, which are carefully (and confidentially) recorded, may prove relevant later on. For the doctor now has a fairly complete picture of the individual as a whole.

Now follows an extremely thorough physical examination of all those areas of the body likely to harbour hitherto undiagnosed trouble. The patient is encouraged to draw the doctor's attention to any aches and pains, or any other worries he may not have bothered to go to see his busy GP about.

Finally there are the clinical tests. These include blood and urine samples (the patient must not eat or drink anything



Peter Hopkirk on the examining table

besides water overnight), a chest X-ray and an electro-cardiogram check for potential heart trouble. The laboratory examination of blood and urine samples, for example, may give early warning of kidney, liver or heart ailments, or of latent diabetes.

Dr Taylor estimates that some ten per cent of those screened will need referring to a consultant for treatment of some kind. Often this will be something quite minor, but the important thing is to catch it early, whatever it is. The tests are particularly designed to detect diseases of the crucial cardio-vascular group, which kill some six out of ten people eventually, and also stress-induced ailments like ulcers and even asthma.

A copy of the screening report is normally sent to the patient's GP, who should already know that he has gone for a screening, pointing out anything that is amiss. Where an employer is paying, a copy of the report may also be sent to the company doctor, but only with the patient's prior agreement.

Dr Taylor believes that everyone over the age of 50, preferably younger, should be screened annually. "We can't promise to pick up everything," he told me, "but we can find out a lot."

The three-year-old Princess Margaret Hospital, conveniently placed for those flying into Heathrow, is one of several centres in Britain offering these facilities. In London there are

three principal clinics, including one run by BUPA and another by the Institute of Directors, as well as a number of smaller ones. They provide very roughly the same screening programme, though the emphasis may vary according to the predilections of their medical advisers.

Screening has one important psychological side-effect (at least for the vast majority who are not referred for medical treatment). That is the relief of discovering that one has a clean bill of health, even if one is given a gentle wiggling by Dr Taylor for drinking too much, or not taking enough exercise. Indeed, after one flabby executive had been screened, his boss ordered him to spend two hours a week in the company gym - or face being sacked.

## More beds every year

There has been an explosion of private hospital building in Britain over the past few years. Since 1976, 53 private hospitals have been built. Why has this happened, what has it achieved and for whose needs is it catering?

One private hospital pioneer, Dr Arthur Levin, previously medical adviser to companies such as Rolls-Royce and British & Commonwealth Shipping Co., saw, in 1970, the need for a private hospital in London with better facilities than then existed.

Dr Levin's philosophy was to create conditions similar to people's homes or the hotels they would stay in. Typical of facilities at the time was a private wing with one bathroom to 10 patients. In 1974 Levin opened the Wellington Hospital, St. John's Wood. In 1976 it was taken over by Humana Inc. (an American investment group which has built 89 hospitals) and is now the largest of Britain's purpose-built, multi-speciality private hospitals.

Although Dr Levin had not foreseen the oil crisis of 1973 and the subsequent influx of Arab seeking medical treatment, the hospital has been a major currency earner. Today about 45 per cent of its patients are British, 40 per cent are Arab and the remainder are foreigners. Bed occupancy is 75 per cent. In 1975, Barbara Castle's proposal to phase out private beds in the NHS caused concern. Some consultants at Northwick Park, Harrow, an 800-bedded district general hospital associated with the Medical Research Council's clinical research centre, started looking for a site on which to build a private hospital.

American Medical International (AMI), the American hospital group which has built over 108 hospitals internationally, stepped in and built the 99-bedded Clementine Hospital, Harrow, in 21 months at a cost of £6m. (The average cost of a NHS 300-bedded district is £13-£14m.) Secondly, interest in medical insurance was increasing. In 1978 50 per cent of private patients were insured; now over 70 per cent are insured.

Today AMI have a £65m investment in British hospitals. Since 1977 they have built seven hospitals and the eighth is due to open in Glasgow before Christmas. It was the building of their 145-bedded Alexander Hospital, Manchester, in 1981 which set the private sector's fast-build pattern; the hospital was opened within 12 months of planning permission being granted. After a British quantity surveyor estimated that the

hospital would cost £12m and take 21 months to build, AMI called in an American contractor who gave a fixed term of 12 months and a fixed price which reduced the total cost to £7.5m.

The British private hospital group, BUPA, have a £27m investment. Through their subsidiaries they have built six hospitals since 1978 with an average of 56 beds and four more are being built. BUPA have achieved a similar speed of design and construction, aiming to open a hospital 20 months after outline planning permission is granted: their Cardiff hospital was built in 14 months.

In contrast NHS hospitals can take 15-20 years to build. Planning on the Queen's Medical Centre, Nottingham, which includes a 1,458-bedded University Hospital and medical school, started in 1965, but the first 400 beds did not open until 1980 and it will take two more years to open another 900; the total cost is around £80m. Designing a large complex hospital which has to cater for all the needs of 300,000 people, is obviously more complicated than building a 100-bedded private hospital.

Mr Eric Hemming, BUPA's hospital development director, says, "the secret to fast building is to have a well-informed client who has decided his needs, a clear-cut decision-making process with a small team... with short lines of communication".

By contrast, Mr Hemming remembers an NHS hospital building committee meeting to discuss a boiler house design with 20 people - nurses, physiotherapists, radiologists - all with a right to discuss and veto a subject on which most had no expertise.

Where do AMI and BUPA decide to build? AMI usually wait for a community to approach them, while BUPA do desk surveys looking at population figures and potential subscriber growth, at the average length of stay in hospital and number of beds in a given area, examining in detail with local consultants work patterns and special equipment needed. Mr Hemming says, "the demand for private surgical and acute medical beds may have reached saturation point. In 1973 there were around 9,000 private beds, half in the NHS; by 1984 there will be over 11,000".

Many of the private hospitals are not full, which may be because they have priced themselves out of the market. Around 90 per cent of these beds are surgical, 10 per cent acute medical, following the needs of the insured.

Mr Hemming says, "the elderly, chronically ill, terminally ill and handicapped are not insurable at affordable premiums". This throws the burden of Britain's medically neglected onto the NHS. Neither sector has successfully tackled the problem.

The explosion of high technology medical equipment has thrown off balance the cost of equipping a modern hospital. Mr Robert Wilkins, consultant radiologist at Northwick Park and vice-chairman of the NW Regional Scientific Committee, says, "British hospitals are not as well equipped as most American and European hospitals, but this is changing".

In private hospitals such as those run by AMI, BUPA and Humana Inc. consultant only to make out a good economic case for a piece of equipment. In contrast, the NHS hospitals work to a budget and if a decision is taken to buy say a CT (computed tomography) scanner (£450,000) for one hospital, it means there is no money for replacement of normal equipment in the area's other hospital.

The technology explosion is most pronounced in radiology, where there have been many developments; CT and digital subtraction and geography both use computers and X-rays; other developments are in ultra-sound, nuclear magnetic resonance (NMR) and isotope imaging (nuclear medicine).

Northwick Park acquired Britain's first CT scanner eight years ago; now almost every major teaching hospital has one, most being paid for by private subscription. A committee has been set up at the hospital to look into the feasibility of the two sectors sharing equipment. This could be the beginning of real co-operation between the NHS and private sector. To an extent it already happens - the London Hospital rents a CT scanner from a private institution. Kings sends patients to private CT scanning and Northwick Park sends patients to Humana Wellington's £650,000 bi-plane cardiac catheter laboratory, which is used by 28 consultants.

In an ideal world the building of private hospitals would have been better co-ordinated to take account of geographical need, and ways should be found for the hospitals to care for more of Britain's elderly, chronically ill and handicapped. However, a healthy private sector has had a beneficial stabilising effect on top consultants who are happy to practice in the UK's mixed medical economy.

Peta Levi

WORS

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## Two views of the way to keep happy and healthy

## The joy of having your own room

Being self employed I cannot afford the NHS. Long stretches of waiting for appointments, seldom seeing the same doctor twice, anxious weeks of waiting for results - these are not for me. I do not enjoy the endless trips back and forth to specialists, doctors and hospital. Not only do I not enjoy them, I cannot afford the time.

There is no doubt in my mind that private medical care is a luxury, born of necessity. Twenty years' experience has taught me this. Private health care gives me reassurance, and peace of mind. I know that I can be looked after by the best brains in the country. If you have medical problems (and some unusual ones) you need to know that you are in expert hands. At a consultation in a NHS cancer hospital the young doctor had "my file" in front of him - it said "Act. 60, deceased" and it was my late mother's file. When one has the one life - and that one not particularly healthy - you require faith in the people - and the system.

Money spent on my annual PPP Masterplan (1) subscription to a private health scheme is money well spent. I gladly

forgo long holidays, the latest kitchen equipment or expensive videos. I prefer to invest in privacy, personal choice, and comfort that private health care offers me.

Twenty years ago I had my first experience of private medicine. The operations were grim, the pain excruciating but it was a relief to be in a private room. There was no one to hear or see my wretched state, and being a very private person, who hates noise a dormitory existence would have made it much worse.

Since then I have had many more experiences of private and NHS treatment. Today the private sector has improved beyond recognition. Private hospitals and clinics have facilities often more modern and more advanced than many of our NHS hospitals. The new Cromwell Hospital in London has probably the most up-to-date cancer unit in the country. The Devonshire Hospital is another new one where there was no difficulty in having immediate Ultra Sound investigation while my local health authority could not give me an appointment for at least three weeks as they had no one to operate the machine.

Today there are many private health schemes. I admit a preference for PPP. One of its advantages is its membership card which can be used like a credit card. The worry over hospital bills is taken off your shoulders. You present the card and arrangements are made for direct settlement.

The benefits of medical attention fitting in with your own commitments, business or domestic is incalculable. For a business person it is vital, and I find, psychologically calming. As a private patient I have always been able to discuss my problems almost immediately. Speed in medical treatment is important. Ill health to the sufferer requires action, not a debate. The uncertainties and delays in the public sector can cause unnecessary emotional stress, and to me, private care has taken that away. No waiting for weeks for answers - good or bad.

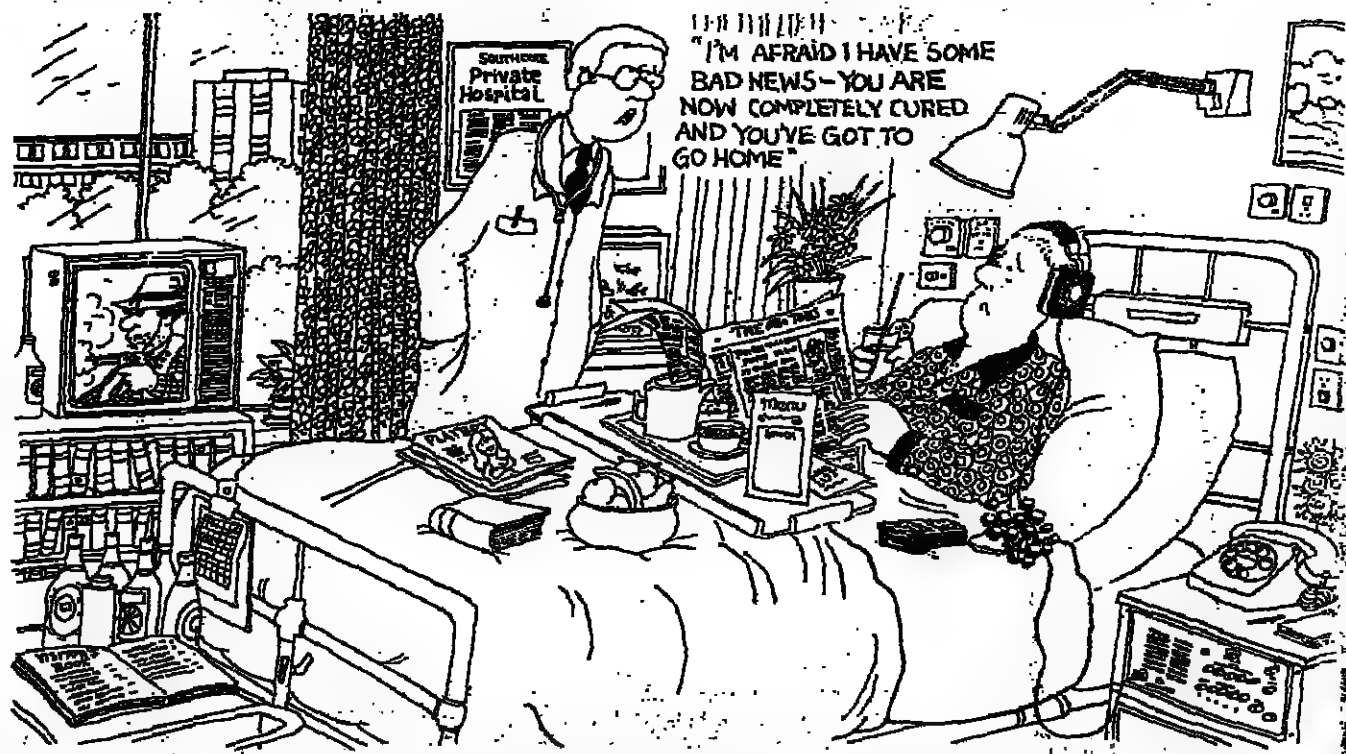
My recent experience left little time for thought. I was in the hands of the surgeon of my choice - one of the world's great cancer experts, whose devotion to his work and the time he spends caring for his patients is remarkable. Within minutes of diagnosing possible cancer,

arrangements were made for me to enter the London Clinic next day for a major operation. The care and attention I had from the sister and nurses was touching. Never a cross word, night or day. Two nurses were assigned to look after me, make me comfortable, pulverize the pillows, wash, powder and pamper me when I most needed it. I was not a number or a statistic. I was another human being with whom they could chat as well as give me reassurance.

Some people say they would hate to be alone. I wonder whether they would say that if they were in real, agonizing pain and surrounded by the noisy bustle of a ward, snoring neighbours, and blaring TV? To me a private room is a blessing. I could feel secure in having all the things I wanted around me, books, personal pictures, cards, business files, dictating machine and all the flowers that arrived from friends and foes alike.

My personal telephone ensured that I was not cut off from the outside world. I could talk to anyone, anywhere. I could even have confidential business meetings. Visitors could come, within reason, when they wanted. Obviously all this happened when I was on the road to recovery. My surgeon, being a very understanding man, realized the more I occupied my mind with normal routines the quicker would be the recovery, and less time to brood on whether one would recover or not.

With serious operations fear can be all pervading. Like a child needing its mother for reassurance, adults also need



those closest to them at these anxious moments. Being able to have my husband with me before being wheeled off to the operating theatre and then to see him when I regained consciousness was very comforting. Others may be braver. I admit I am not. I can never forget the command from the NHS sister at Westminster Hospital that I was not allowed to see my husband until a whole day after his operation!

Hospital food is often a subject left alone. What hospital kitchens do with good food has always been a mystery. Yet there are times when special diets are required and appetizing food can help to rebuild stamina. In private clinics greater care is taken of both the meals and diets. I remember after a kidney operation in an NHS hospital being served the

very things I was forbidden. The alternative was to eat mashed potatoes! The food at the London Clinic was outstanding, well-cooked and beautifully served.

Private health care is not only for the wealthy or city tycoon. I have met fellow workers like myself who have chosen their own path to health. There are those who have said, "But the nurses look after the rich better." I am not rich, and the care and attention I received was exemplary. Nothing was too much trouble. Only the other day the sister in charge of the ward where I had my cancer operation some four months ago rushed up to me in a chain store saying "We have all been asking after you. Did the surgeon tell you? When are you coming to see us?" I have found that as a private

patient the mystique is taken out of the medical profession. The consultants, specialists and nursing staff treat you as a person with a brain and are prepared to talk to you. I have experienced the reverse in the public sector, where I was treated like a moron when I asked questions. I felt they would have liked to send me into solitary confinement for daring to query anything.

I am positive that if everyone could have the same care I have experienced then there would be many more beds available in the National Health. I recently met the dean of one of our famous medical schools, four weeks after my radical operation and while still undergoing radiotherapy. He was amazed at my looking so fit so quickly, and was certain my rapid recovery was a result of the

excellent treatment and the peace of mind I had received. He has at least softened the shock of being in hospital and taken away some of the fear of the surgeon's knife. I have no had to remind people of my rights nor be the victim of a clocking off and on or of a closed department or casualty ward. To me, personally, medical care should be dedicated for all - from consultant, nurse to ancillary worker. A Florence Nightingale approach it may be - but who is wrong with that?

Alina Reagli



## Think British - think NNHT Hospitals

Nuffield Nursing Homes Trust is the UK's largest group of charitably run private hospitals, providing over 1,100 beds.

NNHT's twenty-six years of expertise is reflected in high standards of care throughout its thirty-one hospitals.

NNHT Hospitals are not just for hernias and varicose veins, they treat short-stay acutely ill patients and it is surprising how many people are unaware of the wide range of complex surgery undertaken by the many leading Consultants who use NNHT Hospitals. During 1982 83,500 patients were cared for and almost one third of the operations performed were major, including open-heart surgery.

As a registered charity NNHT recycles any financial surplus towards further development of its hospitals as it does not have to pay dividends to shareholders - it has none.

At present NNHT is embarked upon another phase of its development programme which, by the end of 1984, will add a further 157 patient bedrooms.

NNHT charges are within the benefit framework of the medical insurance Companies but you do not have to be insured to be an NNHT patient. So, when you need to enter hospital, think British - think NNHT Hospitals.

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## Rather painful days 'going private'

Critics of private medical care point to experience in the United States where medical fees in recent years have gone through the roof. Greedy doctors, knowing that patients are covered by an insurance will undertake unnecessary and expensive treatment in order to bump up their fees.

While I am no apologist of the National Health Service (it was dissatisfaction with the NHS that drove me into the arms of private medical care), my own experience is that the private sector in this country is not without its shortcomings.

I have probably been unlucky with both the NHS and private medicine. Any admission that you are both female and a journalist instantly elicits a prescription for valium - no matter what your symptoms. I have had valium for hepatitis, valium for kidney infections (twice), valium for tonsillitis and a host of other ailments - some of which I have recovered from under by own steam without any treatment, and others which eventually landed me in hospital. Needless to say, I have never taken the valium.

November of last year was one of the latter. I was admitted to an NHS hospital suffering from acute kidney infection. I was discharged, cured of the infection, but suffering from an

excruciatingly painful hip, swollen to twice its normal size.

Complaints during my stay in hospital that something was wrong with my hip were taken seriously to the point of giving me painkillers, but no attempt was made to diagnose the trouble. "Purely muscular," was the dismissive reaction of the two doctors who gave it a cursory glance.



continued from page 1

hastened the decision to close St Raphael's surgical beds and reopen as a nursing and sheltered housing unit. The order is now to concentrate its acute facilities at its other hospital, the Convent, in Nottingham.

She added: "We are getting less in numbers and the sisters are getting older. We want to provide a service which would like feel as more individual but we cannot compete with firms which have limitless amounts of money to pour into its places."

A similar story can be told in south London, where the Churchill Clinic, opened in 1981, has now achieved the double-figure target for return on investment set by its private Kuwaiti backers, only two years after its opening. The initial investment was about £6m and fresh improvements are now planned.

Further proof of the increasingly sophisticated relationships that now characterize the growth areas of private hospitals can be found in the Community Hospitals Group - an organization which seeks to combine the local commitment which has behind most of the successful independent hospitals with City finance and management skills.

The first of the CHG hospitals, the Yorkshire Clinic at Bingley near Bradford opened just over a year ago after more than 70 local consultants launched feasibility studies obtained pledges from their colleagues of £300,000 - 10 per cent of the estimated project cost - and then went on a shopping trip round the City. The package put together by MIH Nightingale, the investment bankers (now Granville and Co), provided the template for four more hospitals, two of them already operating; several more are in the pipeline. In the words of Mr Frank Atkinson the clinic's chief executive the package demonstrates the benefit for local investors of "one-stop" shopping.

Private hospitals were once considered a high-risk by institutional investors BUPA

Hospitals claims some of the credit for changing this. But while the two differ on the importance of doctors' financial stake - BUPA, like the American hospital groups, tends to view this as a danger - both would probably agree that at one stage the Americans were doing much of the running. According to Mr Peter Thompson, chairman of Community Hospitals: "There was, and still is, a danger of US domination in this sector of the economy."

Considering the numerical presence alone - less than a score, out of the 170 private hospitals in the country cited by the Independent Hospitals Group - the reaction to the Americans might seem surprising. Undoubtedly they represent principles of profit-oriented and professionally managed competitiveness at variance with the traditional picture of private health in Britain. Equally undoubtedly, their glossy, opulent, high-profile image is, collectively speaking, a caricature. But British groups claiming to be better versed in the home market tend to regard the Americans as chief among those responsible for "over-bedding".

Some evidence of this was furnished when AMI Hospitals Ltd, the UK subsidiary of American Medical International, was forced into staff redundancies at its newly opened Chaucer Hospital, in Canterbury. Like other AMI hospitals, the Chaucer provided "high-tech" extras like ultra-sound equipment, an intensive care unit and 24-hour resident medical cover facilities, as AMI itself points out, rarely found in private hospitals outside London and clearly viewed by AMI's critics as excessive for the burghers of Kent. AMI, like its chief competitor at the top end of the market, Humana, has also found itself on the receiving end of BUPA's drive to cut costs by, for example, setting ceilings for operating theatre fees for insured patients.

According to Mr Gene Burleson, the Texan who heads AMI's UK operation, the Chaucer was a "unique situation", largely a result of getting

Commonsense told me otherwise. The day I was discharged I made an immediate appointment at a local private clinic. I had attended on previous occasions when NHS GPs had insisted on prescribing valium for the same kidney infection.

A quick examination by the clinic's doctor produced the diagnosis of capsulitis - in layman's language, tennis elbow of the hip. A painkilling injection was administered followed by another direct into the joint to reduce the inflammation.

The doctor's advice to rest and not walk was precisely the opposite of that given by the hospital - to keep moving and "get the muscles working again".

My next move was, however, a mistake. As I was already paying for treatment (I have no private medical insurance) and would have to return for further injections I thought I might as well have a full check-up. "How much was a thorough medical examination cost?" I innocently asked.

The doctor looked at me, muttered something about it depending on what tests I wanted done, and plucked a figure out of the air which was obviously what he thought the market would bear - £300. He



was just about spot on, I knew that this was probably double what BUPA or PPP charge for their full medicals. On the other hand, he had already treated me for the hip. "Does that include everything?" was my next question. Oh yes, I was assured.

To cut a long story short, three visits and a multitude of tests later, it became apparent that £300 was by no means the full fee. On my fourth visit I said I felt that I had had sufficient electrocardiograms, liver function tests and X-rays to reassure me that whatever I might be suffering from, it would remain undetected by medical science, until it either got worse, or I dropped dead.

"But I feel we ought to do a brain scan just to satisfy

ourselves that this is not the cause of your headache," said the doctor.

I turned down the offer knowing that my headache was most likely brought on by liveliness following too many antibiotics. "Well you at least ought to have an X-ray in case it is a nerve trapped at the base of your neck. Your hip X-ray showed some osteo-arthritis of the spine," retorted the doctor now warning to his sales pitch.

I had not the courage to tell him I knew that virtually everyone over the age of 50 suffers from osteo-arthritis of the spine, and mumbled something about not having time for X-rays.

But it was not that easy to away. Before I knew what was happening my objections about not having time were brushed aside and I found myself on more in front of the X-ray machine. Fortunately I had had all the children I want so might have otherwise been worried about the dose of rays I took in that week should have just said No.

Suffice to say that I am still here, my headaches have gone since I gave my liver a rest from antibiotics and alcohol, and although I have settled in clinic's account for £400 (£11 more than the original "quote") I have no intention of paying their final £100 insult for X-rays. I didn't need and didn't want Heaven knows what the hi might have been had I been covered by medical insurance.

Lorna Bourke

expansion, is now discernible. This need not, however, preclude diversification into interesting new areas. Other American groups have already moved quickly into acute psychiatric care in Britain - and according to AMI's Mr Burleson, alcohol rehabilitation and drug abuse treatment are also promising fields. So, too, is day surgery, involving no overnight stay.

BUPA Hospitals, meanwhile, is examining what Mr Smith somewhat cryptically describes as "Culomptions" that is, the economic and clinical feasibility of any hospitals of around 20

beds to fill in the remaining geographical interstices where demand for private hospital care, is as yet unrequited.

All this activity, however, will be taking place in what Mr Ouellette, of HCA, describes as an atmosphere of significantly greater cost consciousness. "The survivors," he adds, "are going to be the pros - the people who really know what they are doing in terms of running a hospital."

David Nicholson-Lord

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PRIVATE HEALTH



A happy patient in a room at the Churchill Clinic. Picture by Robin Lawrence

## Where the patient is always right

Staffing absorb more than 60 per cent of total running costs of a hospital. It is not surprising, therefore, that great care is taken at a private hospital to invest appropriately and effectively. The staff, together with the facilities which the hospital offers, is what doctors entrust it with care of their patients.

One of the reasons for a private hospital's flexibility, the type of facility that is not necessarily available to the National Health Service. The latter, an employer of almost a million people, is inhibited by size, by established traditions and, not least, by local and national political control.

Private hospitals, on the other hand, have the advantage of being able to set their own rules, within the constraints of legal and medical practice, and of having minimal political control compared to that faced by the public sector.

The relationship between doctors and private hospitals differs from that of the public sector. With the exception of medical director or his agent and residential medical staff doctors are independent of what is on offer.

In a few instances, the doctor has invested in the hospital either financially or with a degree of commitment. Most often, they have agreed to provide the facilities they need.

In their turn they attract, and may pay on a fee-for-service basis, their medical colleagues.

While allowing doctors collectively to decide upon which supplies and equipment they use, from sterile disposable hand towels to highly specialized technology, the private sector generally does not cater to an individual consultant's whim, a failing for which the NHS is sometimes criticized.

In BUPA hospitals, the 70 or 80 doctors who may use the hospital during the year form the hospital's medical society from among whom are drawn the medical committees that discuss clinical requirements with the company.

"There has to be a certain amount of give-and-take with the medical society," Mr Philip Codd, of Bupa, says. "But although we are a non-profit-making company, we don't want to make a loss. We have to provide the best facilities within the budget."

The link between the doctors and the hospital is the hospital manager or director. In Bupa's case, the contact is through the medical committee and its chairman: some companies employ a medical director.

The hospital manager is broadly equivalent to the NHS hospital administrator. But where the health service admin-

istrator's qualifications have centred around the running of a public institution, his links with the national welfare system and accountability to Parliament through a number of executive levels, the private sector demands different qualities from its top managers.

At Humana's 225-bed Wellington Hospital, for example, the executive director, who like all the company's heads is American, has a masters degree in business studies which was followed by a specialized course geared towards hospitals.

Mr Bruce MacLeod, Humana's executive director, has five British senior managers all reporting directly to him. Dr Arthur Levin, the medical director and the founder of the hospital, advises on medical policy. Other spheres are covered by the director of finance, the director of housing and two associate directors, one responsible for the medical support services such as physiotherapy, laboratory, X-ray and pharmacy facilities, the other dealing with the ancillary services of catering, security, cleaning, stores and buying.

Within these four divisions, staffing which accounts for about 73 per cent of the running costs, is about 400 people. This, as Miss Sheila Edwards, director of marketing and a former

director of nursing, points out, is affected by seasonal fluctuations. Christmas, for example, is a quieter time than summer when recruitment increases. For this reason, and in addition the "establishment" of the hospital, the Wellington, in common with many hospitals, maintains its own pool of nurses, or nurse bank, on whom it can draw when needed.

In general terms, she says, "the volume of nursing depends upon the intensity of their work and the volume of patients in the hospital at any one time."

Mr Peter Smith, of AMI Hospitals, agrees. "We are subject to such extremes in occupancy levels. One day it may be bursting through the roof the next day it's very quiet," he says. Operating theatres may be extremely busy during mornings and evenings but show little activity in the afternoon. The cooperation of the staff over rotas is thus paramount.

"A lot of our staff at fairly short notice, will swap their working hours or days off," he says, "and this is an indication of the sort of helpful cooperative spirit we have."

AMI's hospitals also draw on their own nurse banks, a system which has extended to some catering and housekeeping departments.

"We have hospitals that are small enough for the director to know all his staff and to get across the message that we are all part of a team trying to run the hospital, that its success is down to us," Mr Smith says. "Everyone mucks in and performs according to that objective."

Although the charge had been levelled that private hospitals deprive the NHS of experienced personnel, Mr Smith says that staff come from a wide variety of working backgrounds.

In its early days, AMI recruited a number of health services administrators, but is now drawing more from those with experience of the private sector or from other business backgrounds. Nurses have been attracted from areas of unemployment and housekeepers, for example, from the hotel industry, he says.

The hospital business also makes good use of part-time staff. Many married nurses, in all areas of the industry, prefer not to have a full-time commitment. About a third of hospital employees are part time, Mr Smith says.

In a 41-bed hospital in the Wirral, Merseyside, of the 95 people employed, 38 are part time, according to Mrs Alison Dawson, of Bupa.

Most are nurses, but they also include laundry workers, catering and housekeeping staff, radiographers and physiotherapists, although some companies prefer to have full-time physiotherapists. Clerical staff and secretaries and receptionists may also work part time.

Perhaps unusually, Bupa's Wirral hospital employs contractors to manage its catering services. "The catering manager, his assistant and the head chef are all supplied by the contractor," Mrs Dawson explains. "The reason being that the contractor, with his larger operation, can use all his expertise." Other catering staff, the cooks and bottle washers, are hospital employees.

Generally speaking, those with managerial responsibility and that includes responsibilities for budgets, a strong mark of the private sector are full time employees. It is this same level of responsibility that attracts many managers, giving them a work satisfaction and degree of control that is not always available elsewhere.

The maxim that "the patient is always right" is part of the stock in trade of the private health service and for nurses this can include work, like fetching and carrying, that is less than medical care. Those who dislike that inclusion, leave. Those who remain find themselves in an industry employing skills from medicine and engineering to accounting and portering, all aimed at restoring people to health.

Pat Blair

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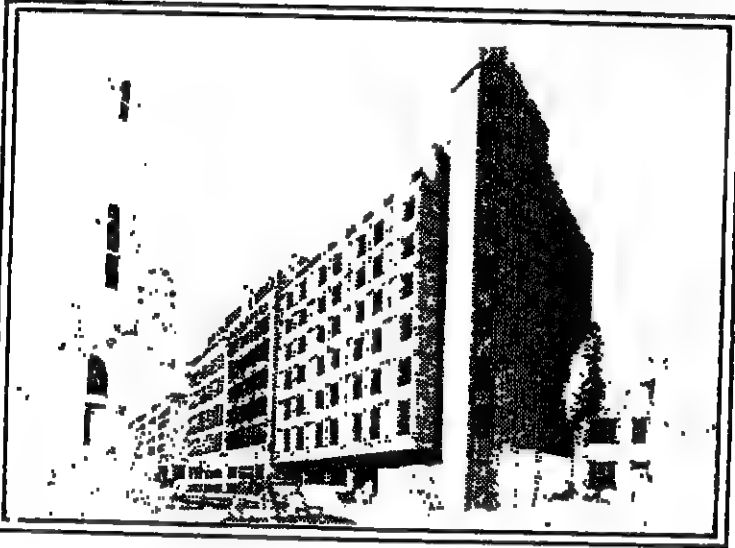
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## When your GP goes private

How often has one heard the question: "Do you know a good GP?" A 1981 survey reported by the Institute for Social Studies in Medical Care found that 90 per cent of patients were satisfied with their GP, but a *Which* survey just published indicates that of the 1,300 members who took part in the survey half had experienced various problems - 26 per cent complaining of long waits at surgery, 20 per cent of difficulty in making appointments and 14 per cent of lack of confidence in GP's diagnoses.

In Britain today there are around 26,700 GPs. Their lists, which average 2,200, nevertheless range from a few hundred in sparsely populated areas to 4,000. Dr Patrick Wood, one of Britain's very few GPs who see private patients only, is chairman of the Fellowship for Freedom in Medicine (FFM), a ginger group for private medicine.

In his view "20 per cent of NHS GPs are wonderful, running first-class efficient practices, but the average GP, who starts with a strong sense of dedication, frequently becomes disillusioned. The trivia with which the NHS bombard him hampers his ability to look after his patients as he would like - the current system does not get the best out of our GPs. Some 20 per cent of GPs may be neither bright nor dedicated and provide a poor service."

The FFM's principal aim is to persuade the Government to allow private patients to get drugs on NHS prescription. Dr Wood says: "Every British person is entitled to NHS care. If a person opts to pay extra to buy a GP's time, yet is still eligible for NHS X-rays, operations, and domiciliary visits, why should he have to pay more than the NHS prescription charge? - it is illogical." One consequence of private patients having to pay for drugs is that reputable private GPs

take greater care in deciding whether a drug is really necessary and in seeking effective yet economical drugs.

No one knows how many people in Britain seek private GP care. The number is probably small, the largest concentration being in the South-east, particularly central London.

Dr Wood's Ipswich practice exemplifies a trend; although it consists of largely middle-class families, he and his partner have a surprisingly high proportion of white and West Indian working class patients. One, a West Indian worker in an agricultural machinery company who has a wife and three children, said that he chose to go to a private GP "to get results; my NHS GP for 19 years never examined us, but just gave us prescriptions."

A Hertfordshire woman doctor's experience illustrates the interest in private GP service.

Five years ago she put up a plate. She now has 600 patients and has to turn away many others as she feels that 600 is the maximum number that she can properly care for with her family commitments. One of her patients, a dentist with a wife and two young children, went to her four years ago "because we wanted to build up a rapport with our doctor and were tired of seeing different doctors each time we went to surgery." He says that the average medical consultation bill for his family is £100-£150 a year, on top of which he has to pay for drugs.

Who are the reputable private GPs today? There are the traditional family GPs, the GPs who wish to live and practice in an area which is closed to any more NHS practice and an unknown number of NHS GPs who are prepared to take some private patients.

An example of the first is a 54-year-old doctor who took over his father's Hampstead

If you ask the British Medical Association how many doctors are involved in private practice, they cannot tell you. In fact at no time can they tell you exactly what all the registered doctors are doing. Some are in the armed forces, some are retired, some out of work, some have given up medicine and are doing something else.

One opinion said that almost all doctors could be said to be involved in private practice, even if all they did was the occasional life insurance medical, for which they were paid. Progress into private medi-

cine is hazardous. "You have to have been to a 'good' hospital" said one doctor. "It's rather like 'good' barristers' chambers. Do your training at a good teaching hospital, become senior registrar, and go on to consultancy work based on a good teaching hospital. If you come from an old municipal hospital in the East End, it doesn't matter how good or how dynamic you are - you will not succeed in private practice."

This may seem a cynical view, but there is some truth in it. To the outsider, doctors in this country appear to be trained in the most haphazard manner, with no career structure or ladder up which they may climb to the top. They are often unemployed at crucial periods in their working lives, unable to plan for the future, either professionally or personally.

Doing research or demonstration jobs in anatomy and physiology are ways in which the young doctor can be paid while waiting for a job to materialize. Research also enables you to keep a step ahead, though there are conflicting views on the value of research. "A research degree", said one doctor, "looks good on paper, but it often has absolutely no relevance to anything you do after that. It merely indicates that you have an ability to gather your thoughts together and set them down on paper."

For the junior doctor, the professor sits at the top of a very broadly based pyramid, composed of the rest of the staff, poised for flight as soon as they can make it. Today, the position is that a lot of them will remain work horses, and never get to the top. In the past many doctors came from abroad to qualify, and returned to their country of origin once they had done so. This is no longer the case.

"Out of every four senior registrars", said one doctor, "perhaps two and possibly three, are simply going to be wasted." There is now pressure from the doctors for more consultant posts to be available, which might have the effect that consultants might find themselves doing jobs their juniors once did - namely, this is not a popular idea. "I'm not going to get up at night and put up a drip", said one consultant, "I've done all that!"

Why do consultants go into private practice? In a favoured and fairly expensive area of London - Harley Street and the adjoining streets - a consulting room and its accompanying expenses can eat up £30,000 a year, and bad debts, in a bad year, can come alarmingly high.

"I went into private practice, first for the money", said a consultant. He wished to give his children a private education, and this was the start. "I also like to have other work beyond my NHS specialty, which is cancer, and so I do general work privately. My private patients, especially from abroad, have some very interesting pathology, and conditions you would not normally see in this country, and this helps me in my work in general."

For the general practitioner, private practice is somewhat different, in that the prevalent associations will not pay out for general practice



practice in 1957. He now has a private practice in St John's Wood which not only consists of foreigners and wealthy Londoners but students, semi-skilled people such as postmen and butchers and the elderly. Because the elderly still think in terms of a 7s 6d visit to the doctor he rarely charges his full 1/2-hour consultation fee of £20.

This doctor says that he knows all his patients well and, having been trained to consult and confer, knows how to find the best clinical diagnosis and treatment. He has the time to chase up appointment clerks, write good letters and visit patients in hospital. He doesn't mind being called 24 hours a day (friends cover occasional weekends and holidays) and finds that patients rarely call him out unnecessarily - even if they don't always appreciate that he has to eat he receives a steady flow of calls through mealtimes.

Private GP care gives him tremendous job satisfaction; the disadvantages are that he can't be ill and that, since the practice is only just viable, he has saved little for retirement.

However, private enterprise often pioneers new ideas when a need arises. An example of private enterprise creating an alternative model for primary care is the Harrow Health Care Centre in Middlesex. Claimed to be Britain's first fully comprehensive private GP service, it opened in November 1982. It was conceived by Dr Michael Goldsmith, who after eight years as an NHS GP resigned because he realized that patients wanted a more personal and caring service. He spent two and a half years developing and researching his ideas. He raised £500,000 from a venture capitalist and industry (Air Call Holdings Ltd) and formed Independent Medical Associates Ltd, which plans to create a chain of private primary care centres.

Dr Goldsmith says, "The reason why private GP care hasn't taken off in Britain is people's fear of the open-ended expense." Since most medical insurance schemes won't cover GP care, he has devised a closed-ended scheme.

The centre has an annual subscription of £65 per adult and £52 per child to cover all

GP consultations, with the option of paying either £22 annually to cover all drugs (an average of £1.80 per prescription), or has its own non-consult making pharmacy, employing a pharmacist, so that the doctor's mark-up on the drugs (sometimes as high as 10 per cent) is eliminated. A one-for-all registration fee of £10 covers an initial screening.

Among the 1,700 patients screened over the last seven months five cases of urogenital cancer, four of diabetes and one of coronary heart disease were revealed. One woman who had repeatedly gone to her NHS GP with stomach pains and had been treated for constipation was found to have cancer.

The centre employs two men and 11 women doctors, three nurses, three physiotherapists, a radiographer, a consultant radiologist, an administrative staff and the receptionists specially trained to be welcoming and helpful. There is also a patients' help with the care, the doctors, give nursing and administrative back-up and are paid a base salary and the financial backers get a 25 per cent return on their investment. The centre is tightly run; there is no wasteful people's money is spent daily on their care."

The centre has now organised a second, more extensive scheme for patients. Because of its emphasis on preventive medicine P, offer a 40 per cent discount on their normal secondary care scheme as they reckon that centre's patients will be no healthier than average. (Identically, the majority of centre's patients come from socio-economic classes C and D.)

Dr Goldsmith says: "largely through the efforts of the Royal College of General Practitioners (RCGP) highly skilled and motivated NHS GPs now exist and it is no reason why my alternative primary care model should be taken up by the NHS. The centre is cost-effective, appears to provide patients with the care they need."

by Levi

## The doctor's life

Dr Robert Lefever, who is an enthusiast for private general practice, and has been in it for 17 years, has robust views: "GPs have forgotten their clinical medicine and turned themselves into amateur sociologists," he declares going on to say that while the state should be concerned with major illnesses, like heart surgery, cancer, even major psychiatric illnesses, like schizophrenia, he feels there should be some differentiation on the provision of cough mixture and appetite suppressants.

The state has been unable to fulfil the major requirements - citing the long waits for hip replacements - and the GP with poor equipment, no X-ray, no unrestricted access to labs, sitting there writing prescriptions, sends seriously ill people off to a "real" or hospital doctor.

After five years of this, says Dr Robert Lefever, trailing a white coat, you will decline into being quite morose or making excuses.

Doctors should not really be trying to deal with someone who is depressed because of social reasons, doctors should be finding out whether they have a thyroid deficiency or anaemia. Dr Lefever finds that his skills are enhanced in the private health, because it is a challenge.

"I make less money now per hour than I did when I was with the NHS - but because I work longer hours, I make more in the end. Anyone going into private general practice for the money can forget it. It is said that people value what they pay for and this is, to a certain extent, true, but the doctor has got to deliver, and the patient has to know it was worth paying for."

For the nursing profession continued page 8

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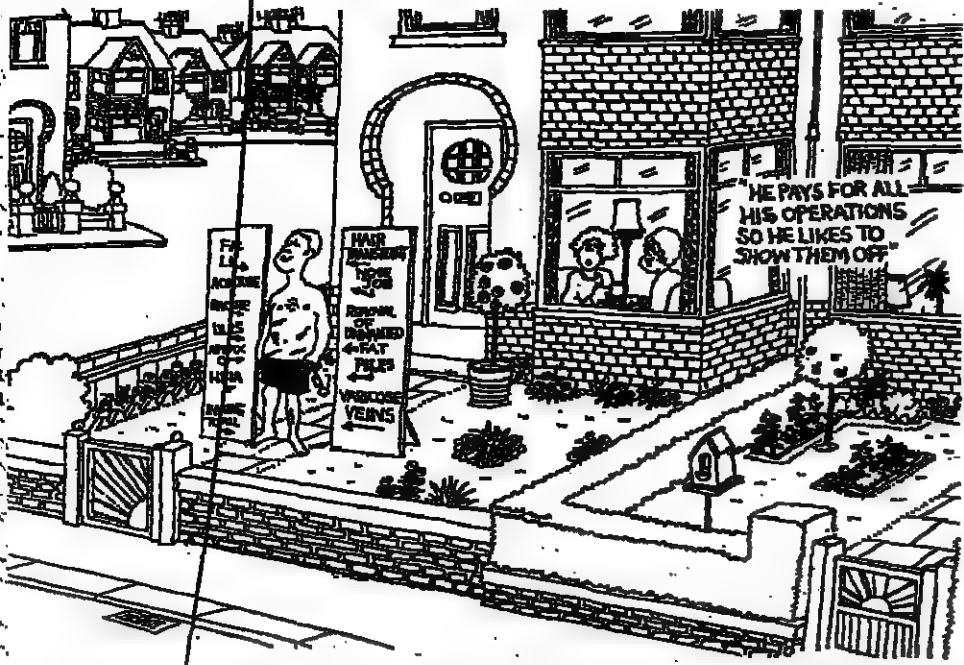
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## Should you wait or should you pay?



the strength or weakness of any private health system is that it responds to consumer demand: it provides the services which the patient believes he needs, whether or not his beliefs are medically sound. Germans are able to recuperate in spas and mud baths; Frenchmen are given a complete panoply of treatments for disordered nerves; and the Americans have the highest rate of operative surgery in the world.

In Britain, the private sector ranks after the introduction of the National Health Service in 1948, and at first was limited to the more than a few consultants providing high-quality care to the minor or preferred patients. The provision of specialist services began to expand more in the 1950s, with long waiting lists which have since multiplied in length in one region to another.

Private health insurance owed a debt to have their clients' options for hernia, varicose veins, and even more major surgery for stomach ulcers, an ailment which has since multiplied in length in one region to another.

Patients who chose to go private realized that by doing so they guaranteed the services of an individual consultant, whereas in an NHS hospital operation might be performed by any member of the team. Buying competence was a subtle but important factor in the choice between the two sectors.

The long growth area for the private sector in the 1960s and 1970s was in health screening. Regular health checks are a sense of the man and woman in the street, but most NHS doctors have refused to carry out the sort of annual medical examination that is routine in North America.

The lure of these checks has proved to be less in the electric age of the opportunity to get to the doctor town or in the danger of smoking too much alcohol, or

too little exercise. Screening for breast cancer has proved very popular - while the NHS is still evaluating the techniques and the age ranges for whom screening can be proved to be worthwhile (as yet there is no scientifically convincing evidence that screening is effective in women under 50).

The private sector has also responded to increasing affluence by providing cosmetic surgery of all kinds, from the classic face lifts and nose jobs to more extensive surgical removal of unwanted fat.

Naturopaths, osteopaths, chiropractors and cell therapists provide a service that the public wants and is prepared to pay for. As yet no one has questioned the right of individuals to shop around for virtually any treatment they have decided they need, nor the freedom of health practitioners to provide what the customer wants.

The least-publicized sector of private medicine - but again one that is growing in response to demand - is long-term care of the elderly physically or mentally disabled, or both. Britain has far less accommodation for the elderly than most other European countries and there are long waiting lists for the scarce NHS long-stay beds.

The solution for many families is a private nursing home - not necessarily because the standard of care is any different to that provided by the NHS, but more often because a bed can be found in a private home with little delay.

Nevertheless, there are substantial areas of health care - such as facilities for mentally handicapped children, for severe chronic mental illness, and for alcoholism - in which the private sector makes little contribution in terms of overall numbers.

For more than 30 years, therefore, private medicine has responded to needs perceived by the public but either not met by the NHS or met too slowly. But the balance between the two sectors has been changing, and is likely to change more rapidly in the 1980s. The reasons are not so much political as technological.

The past 10 years have seen a dramatic growth in the complexity and effectiveness of medical treatments - and in

their cost. Virtually every Western nation is grappling with a crisis caused by the rising costs of health care. So long as NHS expenditure marks time the service cannot fully exploit the very real advances made by medical science.

Two examples make the problem plain. Thousands of patients with painful arthritis of the hip have been restored to health by having a plastic/metal replacement joint. NHS waiting lists are so long for this operation that many of these patients have chosen to pay for their hip rather than have to wait two or three years at the age of 70. Surgeons are now getting good results with replacement knee joints; soon the queue will begin to lengthen for that operation, too.

Coronary heart disease, the biggest single killing disease in Britain, may now be treated with an operation to bypass the narrowed arteries supplying blood to the heart. The NHS can carry out only a few thousand such operations a year, our rate is less than half that in the United States. Here the dilemma facing the patient on an NHS waiting list is that he may die from his heart disease while waiting - but the cost of treatment in the private sector is likely to be £10,000 or more.

Finally, and most disturbing, are the advances being made in emergency medicine. Ever since the start of the NHS anyone injured in an accident on the roads or at work and anyone collapsing with a heart attack, a stroke, or internal bleeding has been taken to the nearest hospital. Emergency medicine and surgery have, quite rightly, been the pride of the NHS.

New, expensive treatments and investigative techniques are now being introduced for such common medical emergencies as coronary thrombosis. If the NHS cannot afford to provide coronary angiography for all who need it, the private sector will do so - in the classic pattern of response to public demand. Britain would then be moving to the state long feared by health planners - one in which the ability to pay would determine the availability of life-saving medical treatment.

Dr Tony Smith

## The case for private practice

Some people believe that in a country with a national health service private practice should not exist. If honestly held this view must command respect. Unfortunately, at least some of those who hold such a view will not concede that there is an alternative view that deserves consideration. I believe that the continuation of private practice may be justified on three counts.

Firstly choice is essential in a free society. Economic considerations may preclude such a choice for many citizens, but that is a criticism of the financial structure of society rather than an argument against the existence of choice. Apart from the very poor, many people who elect to use the NHS have the means to use the private service but prefer to spend their money on consumer durables or foreign holidays. This is entirely a matter for them.

Secondly it is essential for staff and patients of the NHS that it should not be a monopoly provider of health care. For the staff - especially those whose professions are exclusively applicable to the care of patients - there must be alternative ways for them to earn a living. There must be a market place where an independent valuation may be put on their services, lest they find themselves tied inescapably to an unjust level of remuneration. Indeed it may be argued that the recent problems relating to the pay of non-medical staff in the NHS, particularly nurses, arose because the NHS is a near monopoly.

For patients, the existence of an alternative to the NHS provides a vital comparison against which the standards of NHS care may be judged. It is, of course, equally true the other way round. The NHS provides extremely well for emergency patients and those who are gravely ill and this is a great challenge for the private sector. On the other hand, the private sector provides extremely well for the more routine problems and must always be consumer oriented to a greater degree than the NHS. This competition is

advantageous to NHS and private patients.

Thirdly, British patients who seek private health care have paid their full share in the cost of the NHS. If, either by direct payment or by subscription to a provident association, they pay again for private service they are increasing the total pool of resources for the provision of health care and leaving much needed time and facilities in the NHS for others. It might be supposed that they would be particularly welcome in NHS hospitals on such terms but, sadly, this is often not the case. I see great merits in this arrangement, compared with a system that allows rebate of health contributions to those seeking other methods of insurance. It provides a clear protection against the accusation that the NHS subsidises the cost of private health care.

I have been primarily concerned with consultants. The overwhelming majority of them believe deeply in the underlying principles of the NHS and, if occasionally critical of the details of how those principles are carried out, they wish to see the NHS a strong and effective force in patient care. Consultants in private practice are not happy to see patients who are seeking private treatment, which they can ill afford, merely because they have failed to get the necessary treatment through the NHS. The welcome private patient is one who has freely chosen that path with the resources - be they personal or through insurance - that relieve him of anxiety about the financial consequences.

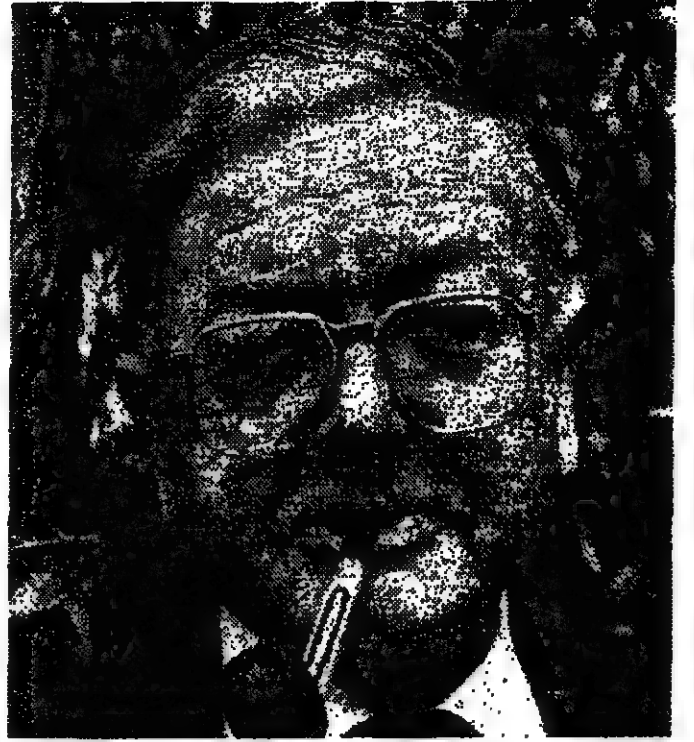
The consultant in the NHS may freely exercise his clinical function but, even so, is constrained by the rigidity of the system and the availability of resources. With private care he is able to conduct his work in the way he chooses. This feeling of professional freedom has, I am sure, more to do with the enthusiasm of consultants for private practice than has the financial reward. Some people think that private practice is a licence to print money. In my experience it is a licence to work

hard with rewards that are more than merely financial.

One of the criticisms most often levelled at private practice is that consultants who practise privately abuse the NHS. It is said that they give greater priority to patients seen in private than to clinically justified, that they put investigation work for private outpatients through the NHS without payments being made, that they use NHS equipment or facilities without permission or payment, and that they carry on private practice to an extent incompatible with their contractual obligations to the health service. I believe that the incidence of such abuses is small but any examples are publicised and damage the image of private practice far in excess of the importance of the incident.

Nevertheless, in the context of private practice, consultants must seek to imitate Caesar's wife. We cannot afford such stories if private practice is to continue to receive the public support it now does. Moreover, some of these practices are dishonest, exposing the perpetrator to the risk of the contempt of the Professional Conduct Committee of the General Medical Council. In addition, health authorities cannot be expected to look sympathetically on private practice if they are denied their legitimate share in the earnings, particularly at a time when they are facing financial difficulties. It is essential that private outpatients are clearly identified so that appropriate charges may be made on behalf of the authority. Moreover, it is hardly fair to colleagues who are contributing to the investigation of private patients if they are denied the opportunity to make legitimate charges for their services. The occasional patient, seen in private, who cannot afford treatment may be catered for through the NHS.

Private inpatient care is increasingly provided on non-NHS premises. This is almost certainly inevitable for political reasons and I have frequently urged my colleagues to make



David Bolt: choice is essential

such provision while there is still time. Even so, I have always believed in the geographical whole time principle, which minimises the amount of professional time lost in car travel and, no less importantly, reduces the length of the professional day and the strain that it entails by concentrating all the consultant's work in one place.

The fact that whenever an emergency arises whether among NHS or private patients, consultant skills immediately available is an enormous benefit to both groups of patients, and it is said that the reason that this ideal arrangement cannot continue to exist is political prejudice. If some future government takes steps to eliminate all private work from NHS premises the sufferers will be the NHS patients. There are areas of the country where the provision of alternative premises for private work will always be financially impossible and specialists where the capital costs of

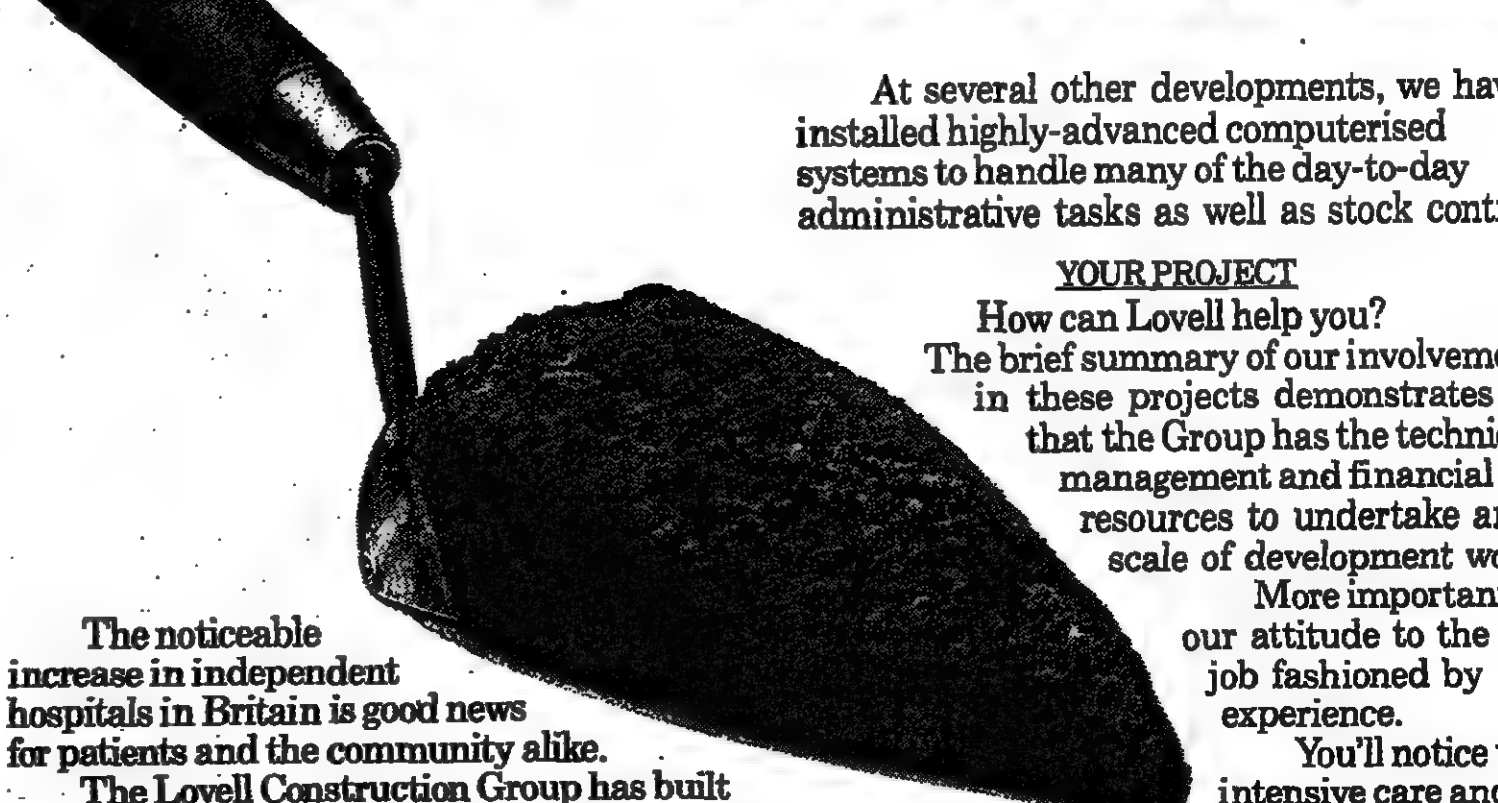
equipment may only be justified by intensive use. Recruitment of first class consultant staff to such places and specialties will become more difficult, whatever financial inducement the NHS may be able to offer. It is probably too much to hope that, in the fullness of time, sufficient agreement on the place of private practice in the provision of health care might emerge to allow a common policy on the subject between all political parties. The provision of satisfactory health care for all is more important than political attitudes.

This article originally appeared in the British Medical Journal.

David E Bolt

The author, a consultant surgeon, was chairman of the Joint Consultants Committee/Central Committee for Hospital Medical Services Independent Practice Subcommittee for six years and has recently retired.

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Setting the style at the Churchill Clinic

## Portrait of the private hospital

They can look like fashionable private hotels or the HQ of a large international corporation.  
Philippa Toomey examined four

The idea of a hospital, to one who only visits, is a large, noisy, with big awnings, lots of people both in and out of bed, and ambulances going to and fro. A private hospital is the exact opposite of all this.

The Churchill Clinic is not in the golden square mile of medicine, but in Lambeth - tucked away from the main stream opposite the pleasant Imperial War Museum. Formerly the Hospital of Our Lady of Consolation, it was run from 1941 by a religious order, who gave up the clinic in the face of rising costs and the problems of re-equipment. Since then, the building has been transformed into a small, rather cosy private hospital, with Kuwaiti money, and British management.

Lambeth might not sound a promising spot for a private hospital, but it is well placed to serve five of the big London teaching hospitals. Two operating theatres accept patients for all specialties with the exception of cardiothoracic surgery and obstetrics. There are a number of consulting rooms and a small theatre for minor procedures, and two X-ray rooms. To the outside, they have a bewildering range of equipment (what one wonders is an image intensifier?)

Food is another important ingredient in recovery - and the like, is excellent, judging from the majority of the patients are getting their food from Marks & Spencer's Selfridges, which have private health coverage for their employees, and also trade unionists with similar cover. It is a friendly place, and it is curious to note that while the emphasis is on single rooms and privacy, almost everyone had their door open.

Each monitoring system by £5,000. For the delivery of the high technology is there, but the aim is to use it sparingly. There are two delivery rooms, and a birthing room. In a private hospital the customer is greatly disliked the thought of birthing room offers as near an equivalent to a room in one's own home as possible, furnished with carpets, curtains, a day bed which can be adapted to lying or sitting. Even the tains and a picture on the wall - as it happens, a decorative design of storks. ("In some very old fashioned.")

There is a big playroom, with toys, paints, bricks, tables and chairs, with a play specialist teacher in charge, and there is

Sixty-three single rooms, each with bath or shower room, have all the aids that modern recovery requires - starting with a colour TV set with video - notice a complex series of call buttons and a two way switch. A red button will call everybody at once. Not a detail has been overlooked. The nurse's station, built into the floor, is by the lift and has a good view of who comes and goes. On the floors for children there are bright pictures and coloured curtains, green and white furniture. Wherever possible, the small children are not put into cots like cages, but in beds but looking much like their bed at home. A double room for mother and sick child has a hospital bed and a divan, and the room can be divided so the child can sleep and the adult watch television or read. There are no nudes in the children's bedrooms, as there are elsewhere. ("Goodness knows what children would do to a biker," says Ron Staker, the general manager).

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opened its doors on June 1 and is in the heart of the traffic which roars down Great Portland Street. It looks like a hospital designed solely for the care of mothers and children, with 88 beds on the 12 floors of the hospital.

A beady eye for the smallest arrangements and the central floor, is by the lift and has a good view of who comes and goes. On the floors for children there are bright pictures and coloured curtains, green and white furniture. Wherever possible, the small children are not put into cots like cages, but in beds but looking much like their bed at home. A double room for mother and sick child has a hospital bed and a divan, and the room can be divided so the child can sleep and the adult watch television or read. There are no nudes in the children's bedrooms, as there are elsewhere. ("Goodness knows what children would do to a biker," says Ron Staker, the general manager).

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also a physiotherapy room, with mats and wall bars, and there will also be a capacity for speech therapy.

What, then, of the cost? Mr Staker has a budget price in mind, of £900 for a five day stay, exclusive of consultant's and other fees, a total, perhaps, of £1,600, with any other costs, covered by a special insurance plan. It is, he points out, not more than a good holiday would cost - for two, of course.

There are two ultra sound rooms which the hospital technical phrase "non-invasive" a very large, gloomy toy lion is lying, paws up - it is difficult to make these rooms less frightening to a child, but they try. Rather interestingly, pathology laboratory.

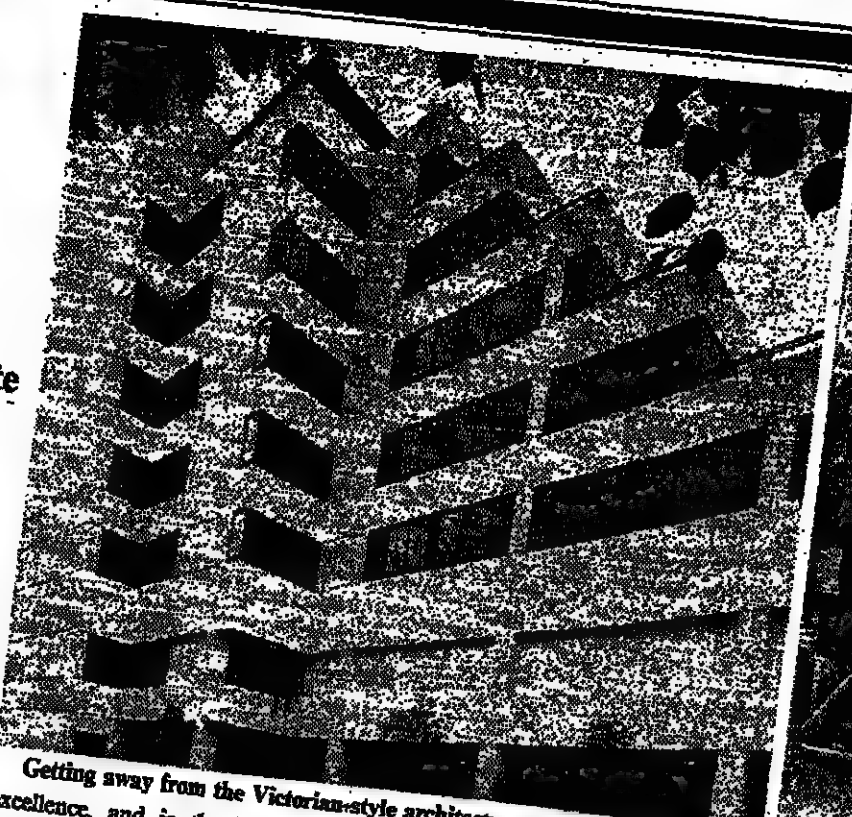
The Humana Hospital Wellington (one the Wellington Hospital) is in St John's Wood, and if the comparison to hotels is to be continued, it is definitely a Ritz. There is not a reception area, there is a foyer, with some glamorous shops, (if kinds of newspaper in Arabic on the news stand. They make no bones about it - it is a centre of

continued from page 6  
cancer structure goes in the NHS.

Paradoxically, Hilary Shenton herself left nursing, and has moved into an area which, by combining a degree of discreet head hunting with a wide personal knowledge of the people involved, deals with recruitment in the private health sector. More than one new hospital acknowledges that selecting staff was done by her. Hilary Shenton says that she would advise any nurse to travel, to get as much experience as she can (and it is usually a she) adding that boredom and routine can make even the best and most dedicated people restless. She also advises nurses who are looking for a change.

Most nurses really enjoy nursing, and the personal contact in caring for patients, and many find that the small private hospital, with its emphasis on the patient has more appeal.

Today there is coming and going between the NHS and the private sector for nurses, which must be healthy. However, Hilary Shenton points out, "if one wants to stay in private practice, the career prospects are not very good at the top of the scale. There is a limit to the number of hospitals there are, and it is felt that the work of the general manager ('the buck really does stop here' observed one of them) is



Getting away from the Victorian-style architecture: The Wellington Day Surgery Centre, and surgeons at the Churchill Clinic

excellence, and is the largest, purpose-built, multi-speciality private hospital in Britain, with 225 in-patient beds, and a large day surgery centre in Harley Street. Seven operating theatres, for specialist cardiac surgery, ophthalmics, and whole body scanner are only part of the service.

From the outside, it could be the headquarters of IBM or Inside, it is the picture of a big national reputation and clientele. With the opening of the year, there is more accommodation for gynaecology, obstetrics and paediatrics, and the hospital also offers birthing and also offer champagne to the parents.

A film shown on video to all

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so different from the work they have done in the health service, where decisions are arrived at more by consensus and agreement to work together (or not) rather than anything else, that the experience gained in the private sector would not be particularly relevant for a future in the NHS.

The fact that private hospitals do not have to deal with the endless troubles associated with old, unsuitable buildings, shortages of money and staff, and decisions is a satisfaction in itself, though the administrators without exception express a high regard for the colleagues they have left in the NHS. PT

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A trip to Harpenden to look at the latest BUPA hospital, opened this year, discovered a delightful two-story building, mainly in red brick, with wood and stone, in shades of red and green.

Like all BUPA hospitals, it was built after research and discussion with consultants and hospitals in the area. BUPA has produced a map of independent private and BUPA hospitals in the country, and it is clear that there is little point in sitting hospitals away from large centres of population - in Devon and Cornwall there are four, with none in Cumbria, Powis, and thirteen in the City of Westminster.

The day I was in Harpenden was their busiest so far, with 18 patients being operated on in the two theatres. The hospital is equipped for most operations.

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Gene E. Burleson, Managing Director, AMI Hospitals Limited

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FRIDAY PAGE

TALKBACK

I was a flagging wife

From Mrs Peter Tahourdin, 2 Twyford Avenue, London. As the recently widowed wife of a British Council officer for 35 years, I have inevitably since my husband's death been thinking over our years together and realizing what an extraordinarily full, interesting and exciting life it has been.

I am, therefore, rather appalled at the idea that the majority of young British Council wives are as frustrated as would appear from Caroline Moorhead's article in Friday's Times (June 10). As an active member of the British Council Wives Association for many years, I do not believe that this is true. Obviously a wandering life has disadvantages, most of us have at least one posting we hate; most of us agonize over sending children home to school; most of us have periods when we long to set down roots in Britain. But in what other job could we see so many places of interest, come to learn about the way of life and the problems of other countries or meet so many eminent and interesting people?

Incidentally, the British Council Wives Association has studied the question of divorce and has found absolutely no statistical evidence that our rate of divorce differs in any way from the rate in a similar socio-economic class in Britain.

From Mrs Chris Grover, Tudor Hall School, Banbury, Oxfordshire. I went East straight from Oxford to be a company wife over 30 years ago. My inquiries about employment were coldly answered: "In this company wives do not work". This wife quietly ignored the unwritten law and did whatever job was available, wherever my husband was posted. None was what I would have chosen to do, all were ill paid and some were dull, but all provided welcome relief from the predetermined role I was expected to play.

Control needed

From Mrs Barbara A Green, 24 Regent Court, Wellesley Road, Chiswick, London. Peta Levi (Wednesday Page June 8) reported the findings of the Woman survey which highlighted hostility towards mothers and children in public.

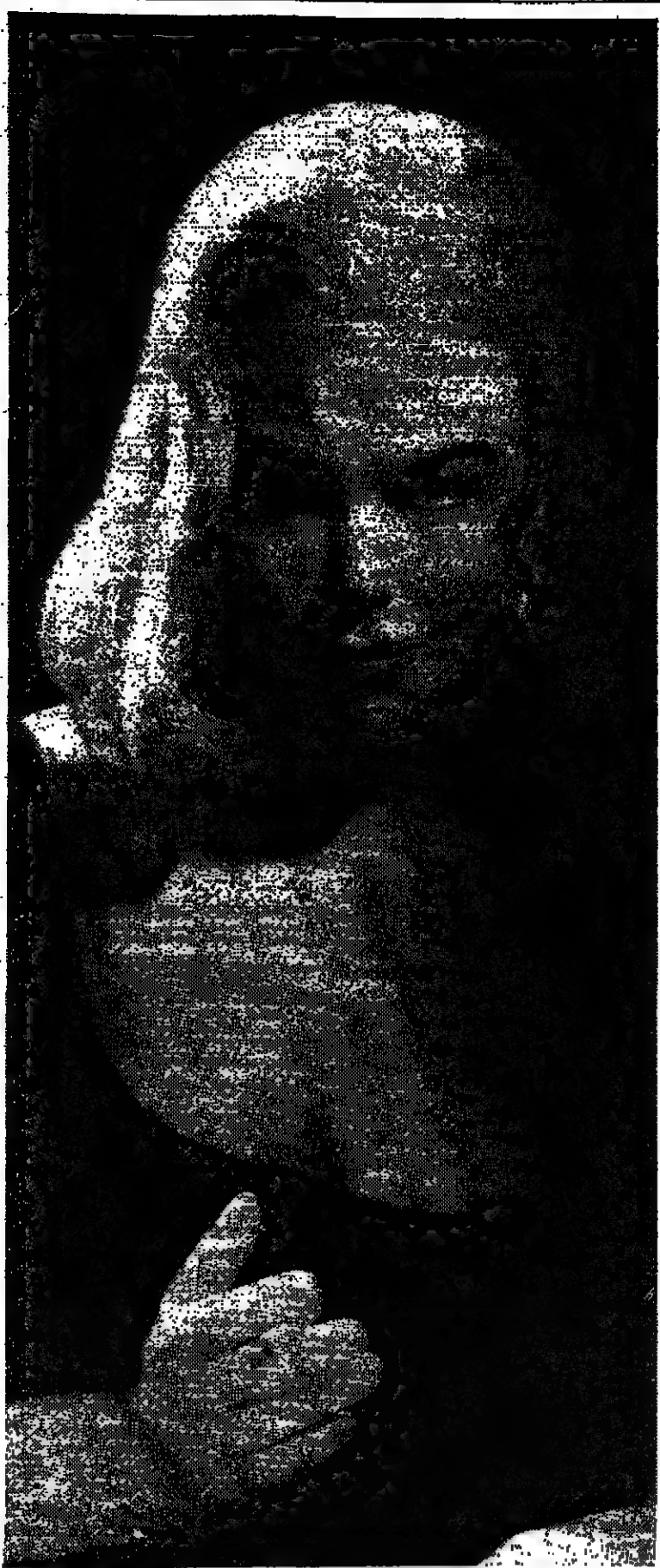
May I suggest that hostility is often expressed towards neither mother nor child per se, but towards the behaviour of those children whom the mother either cannot or will not control. There is, after all, a limit to the number of times that even the most tolerant person is prepared to have a supermarket trolley rammed into the back of their legs. Even in our local library children are allowed to run around shouting and screaming.

Hardly unknown

From: H. Stevens, 11 Oxenden Wood Road, Chislehurst, Kent. With all due respect to Ms Penny Perrie, I found her column (Monday June 13) misleading on three points.

First, an Earl's daughter, whose grandmother is lady-in-waiting to the Queen Mother is hardly "an unknown nursery school assistant". Second, very many young women are extremely anxious to have the benefit of a university education but, sadly, it is still more difficult for them to gain a place than it is for a young man.

Third, she assumes that a university degree is the key to "a brilliant career". My son, a Cambridge MA in his twenties, is unable to find a job of any sort.



Joan Heal in her days of West End stardom and, right, as she is today, "content and comfortable"

Whatever became of Joan Heal?

Joan Heal, once one of the brightest review stars of the theatre, won't describe herself as an alcoholic. "I loathe the word. It makes people think there is some wickedness there. And it makes us feel as if we are pariahs, lepers."

She is an attractive, well-dressed, 60 year old woman. She lives in a small flat not far from Eaton Square, where she used to live for 20 years, but it is far enough to be considered on the other side of the track. Her sitting room is in brown and beige, but the furniture is obviously a legacy from the Eaton Square days. There are no mirrors. She broke all of them when she was drinking. Her tipple now is Earl Grey tea. She smokes a lot, putting her ash into a small gold ashtray with a lid to conceal the unpleasant smell of stale cigarettes.

Joan never quite believed her own myth. She felt as if she were a fraud, surviving on energy, personality and facility. "I was convinced I couldn't really act." But she did know that she had an extraordinarily good figure, although she worried about her looks. She laughs, perhaps a little too much, as she describes how Jack Hulbert auditioned her when she was first starting her career and told her that she had excellent legs, and that she would be a very good show girl if they gave her a lot of feathers and things to cover her face. She projected an image that she thought would attract, and when the effort of performing on and off the stage got too much, she turned to vodka and obliterated all the hurt.

She had not always used the bottle as a prop. As a young girl she hardly drank at all. She went through drama school without trauma. "Although I was so frightened of everyone I would just go away and hide myself." She met her first husband while she was working in *Intimate Review* with Dora Bryan. "Out came the stars and the moon, and *toujours l'amour* and I married him." She had a daughter and life was good. Her profession enticed her to drink.

Even after her marriage broke up, which left her sad but not broken hearted, she turned to her career for solace, not the bottle. She was confident enough to leave the musical stage, where *Grab Me a Gondola* had established her as one of Britain's top comedy stars, and go back to the straight theatre.

Her second husband was nine years younger than she was. She hadn't really wanted to marry again, but he persuaded her. "What neither of my husbands realized was that I was dreadfully insecure. I wasn't the jokey, larky lady that I had created, and sometimes I would be in moods where I couldn't pull it off and people would say 'you look



miserable, what's the matter with you?'. At that time I met everybody, the highest, the starriest, the most brilliant people, but I was very shy. I shall never forget a young actor saying to me: 'Joan, the trouble with you is you are one drink under. If you have a drink you'll loosen up.' I don't blame him. I knew exactly what he meant. So before I went anywhere I used to have a drink."

"My second husband had a drinking problem - and I kept pace with him. Eventually he went to a psychiatrist and gave it up, and his career moved on terribly well. I, meanwhile, was beginning to lose confidence in myself. I don't know what happened, but my sense of fun started to leave me. I felt somewhere underneath it all I was a nothing. It was as though, if I was opened up and they could see my soul, they would know it was a seething mass of black maggots."

She had another child, a son. Her husband backed an enormously successful stage musical and to celebrate he took an inch of champagne. From that moment he didn't stop drinking and she says he drank himself out of his business. She had a recurring virus which caused paralysis, particularly in one of her legs. Sometimes she would limp, and when he was drunk her husband would mock her. Eventually, despite the happy times - and there were happy times, she says - they separated. She didn't want a divorce, she didn't want to leave him. For a while things continued as before. An au pair cared for her son while she worked. But then the

money ran out. "I was drinking a lot then. I came here to this tiny flat which seemed to be awfully dismal, but I tried to make something good of it."

For a while her son stayed with friends in the country. Then the Actors' Charitable Trust paid for him to go to prep school. "I was very mis, and so I drank. I would have conversations with people on the telephone, arrange to meet them, and not turn up because I couldn't remember even having spoken to them."

Her mother came to stay then, after a short while, committed suicide. "I was helped on the instant by the most adorable woman in the theatre, Evelyn Laye, who didn't know me from a bar of soap. She told me I had to work. And I got a job, through her, as a character actress. I got a bit better."

But then her health gave way again, and she turned back to the bottle. She was given a small part in *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat* and one night she was told not to go on stage because she was drunk. She denied it, but she never worked again. She thought about the death of her mother, her two failed marriages and not being able to earn money. And she felt sorry for herself. "Then I discovered something. If I had a drink, it didn't hurt so much, and so the booze became my friend, it was an anaesthetic. It took away all the pain."

When her son came home, she sobered up a bit. She went down to one bottle a day. On Jubilee Day her

son went to a street party. Before he left he said "don't drink whilst I am out". As soon as the door shut she started gulping down the alcohol. She assumed they had spent a normal evening. The following day she thought she ought to admit she had taken a drink. Her son told her "Is that why I found you drunk on the hall floor?"

She says: "I looked at my 12-year-old son and the trust had gone out of his eyes. That was the worst moment of my life. I never wanted to commit suicide, but I went to bed, took a pill, and every time I woke up, I took another one, until they were all used up. I had to face the truth. I was a drunk."

Joan Heal tried several cures for drinking over the next 10 months. Eventually she saw a television programme about an alcoholic unit at the Western Hospital and rang them the following morning. She made two appointments, which she failed to keep, but eventually she did go. At first, everything went well - her honeymoon period - but then she had a lapse and started drinking again. She stopped, went back to the unit and managed to wean herself off drinking. She has not had any alcohol for four years and now runs movement and speech classes at the Western Hospital.

Her second husband stopped drinking before her and she says that they are now the best of friends. "I am very lucky. I am content comfortable. I like what I am doing. But if someone did ask me to play an interesting part, then yes - yes, I would."

Wendy Oberman

MEDICAL BRIEFING

It's tough for twins



Middle age is marked by an inability to read the honours list in the news papers: those who were young enough, or had a magnifying glass and could see the small print last Saturday, will have noticed that two identical twins were honoured. Major-General David Thorne became a KBE. Brigadier Michael Thorne a CBE. Not all twins do as well as the Thornes, who joined the Royal Norfolk Regiment together, went on to command different battalions of the Royal Anglian Regiment at the same time, and have both subsequently had good staff careers.

Statistics show that twins have a more difficult life both physically and mentally than ordinary children. Their parents face special difficulties: quite apart from the problems of feeding and caring for two babies, parents later have to decide the correct balance between interdependence and independence for the twins. Should they be encouraged to dress alike? Should they go to the same schools? Are the parents giving more attention to the large and content baby, or to the smaller, demanding one?

A book out this month by Dr Elizabeth Bryant deals with all aspects of bringing up twins. It also offers suggestions for solving the medical and social problems facing parents when they find they are one couple in eight whose union has been doubly blessed.

A warning in the book is that the death of a twin seems to be responsible for a very much higher than usual incidence of mental breakdown in the survivor.

*The Nature and Nurture of Twins*, Elizabeth M Bryant, Ballière Tindall £9.95.

Friendly treat



Parliamentary candidates protect both their pockets and their health by misquoting the law of treating. Over the years they have persuaded the public that they are not allowed to buy their round at the bar for fear of being accused of trying to influence the elector. In fact the law is class conscious, but precise: our Victorian forebears decided that treating was only illegal if the recipient was not a friend, socially inferior, and was likely to sell his vote for a drink.

Curing leprosy



Having dodged the canvassers out for votes last Thursday, Knightsbridge pedestrians on Friday found themselves in the clutches of collectors for Leprosy. Donations to the charity enables people to fight leprosy without leaving the civilization of the Brompton Road. Among other projects Leprosy contributes grants to a number of home-based doctors, including research workers in London, Oxford and at Porton Down.

The thought of leprosy gives rise to a particular horror, partly because of the deformities it causes when untreated, partly because of most people's childhood briefing from the Bible. Contradicting the popular view, Dr Colin McDougal, the Oxford research worker and editor of *Leprosy Review*, told *The Times* that if patients cooperated, 80-90 per cent could be cured of their active disease, although some, particularly those who delayed treatment, were left with residual deformity.

Some of the best treated lepers in the world are the 300-400 in Britain who have occasioned such interest that they have been meticulously followed and had no chance of defaulting in their treatment.

Dr Thomas Stuttford Medical Correspondent

THE TIMES Tomorrow

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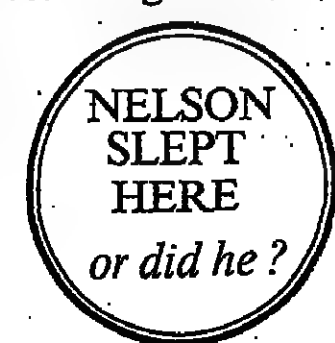


Spearhead: Roberts and Marsh, out for Australian blood



● Theatre: Star gazing at Minack and a guide to open-air productions

- Family Money: Are you banking with a building society?
- A tall story of estate agents



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## THE TIMES DIARY

### Eye-opener

For the first time in his 20-year tenure of the *Private Eye* editorship, Richard Ingrams has departed one of his staff to take the chair during his absence on holiday. This is more significant than it sounds, for in the past Ingrams has usually left his crew to fend for themselves, with often chaotic results. Lord Gnome's new protégé is 23-year-old Oxford graduate Ian Hislop, a former editor of the satirical student magazine *Pastime*. His current control of the *Eye* has impressed most of the old guard, not the easiest bunch to please, and fuelled speculation that Ingrams, 46, will step down soon and confer the Gnomish peerage on young Hislop.

### Bitter bout

A little known fact about the great Jack Dempsey, who has just died at the age of 88, is that while he was world heavyweight boxing champion in 1921, his agent had a stand-up row with another client, the equally great Eugene O'Neill. After a bitter bout of verbal pugilism, the playwright had his play, *The Straw*, withdrawn from Broadway because the agent, William A. Brady, had insisted that Dempsey be given a part. Boxer and writer never came to blows themselves - which was surely fortunate for O'Neill - the whole bizarre affair being conducted through their supposed ally. The story is doubly topical since another O'Neill play, *A Moon for the Misbegotten*, now previewing at the Riverside, Hamamtsmith, contains the line: "Sure you could have given Jack Dempsey himself a run for his money." This was first performed two years after the *Straw* debacle, but I cannot establish whether the champ found time to go and see it.

### Per cent proof

So confident was Jeffrey Evans of Dulwich that he was going to win the FHS competition for the closest forecast of last week's electoral swing that he wrote on his entry: "Please send my case of Johnnie Walker Swing Deluxe Whisky to the above address where you are cordially invited to share it with me." The confidence was well placed, as his estimated percentage was 3.987 to the Conservatives, commendably close to result of 3.916. The whisky is on its way to SE24, and I might well follow it.

BARRY FANTONI



### Trop cher

Be warned against an offer which appears in a number of London freebooks for £2 off "a giant Beajoulais sausage (current price £6.50)" at Les Amis Gourmands, the purveyor of up-market victuals in Covent Garden. When confronted with the document, staff become unaccountably vague, fetch one of the sausages and weigh it. They appear to be as puzzled by the advertisement as I am, for the lowest priced giant Beajoulais sausage on display is £17.50.

### Former first

Rosalynn Carter, the former First Lady of America, is at last finishing her long-awaited book and emerging from her Georgia exile. While on a recent visit to New York with her husband Jimmy, she lunched with 15 women and spoke about her memoirs, which were due to be published last summer but which will not now appear before autumn. It was plain at the lunch that past criticisms - particularly of her attendance at cabinet meetings - still rankled; but I gather that she is now livelier, more open and philosophical than she was during her years at the White House. One of the guests, Kitty Carlisle Hart, said Jimmy Carter had once told her that his wife was the best hula dancer among the navy wives. "I was," said Rosalynn, "and it was fun. I've written about that. Sometimes, when I was working on the book, I would remember things and I just sat over the typewriter and cried."

I was within wine-throwing distance of Anna Ford yesterday, but resisted the temptation to average the wretched Jonathan Atkinson because of the looming presence of Roger Cook. Check-point's burly investigator. That programme is celebrating its tenth anniversary, and Miss Ford, looking edible in white, had come to the Rugby Club of London to help to celebrate. Instead of becoming the first diarist to be beaten up by Cook, I settled for asking him what he thought of a *Time Out* piece which accused him of hogging the limelight while others do the work. His reply was a model of restraint: "It is sad to see such naked jealousy in print."

PHS

Frank Chapple, TUC Chairman, calls for new loyalties to counter Tory pressures

## Survival before socialism



In the run-up to last week's general election all my colleagues on the TUC General Council viewed the outcome as crucial. Some had played a major part in drawing up Labour's manifesto and a few had been responsible for Michael Foot's accession to the leadership. All were alarmed by the prospect of another Tory victory. Large sums of money were given, trade union officials were seconded to key marginal constituencies, union journals implored their members to vote Labour.

Now - several million pounds worth of members' money later - the "disaster" has happened. Labour has been routed with 119 lost deposits and the lowest average vote since 1950. In a cruel twist of Denis Healey's eve-of-poll warning, it is Labour and not the Alliance which is a wasted vote in nearly half of the country.

The result of Labour's humiliating defeat is that we face up to five more years of unemployment, exclusion and attacks on trade union organization. Combined with several other trends, such as technological change, smaller plant size and the decline of manufacturing industry, the possibility of a Tory election victory in 1988 could leave the trade union movement as crippled as Labour was on June 9.

More than ever before, unionists have to do some hard thinking. Too much is at stake for sentimentality to dominate our decision-making. The greatest problem we face can be summed up as Socialism or Survival. So long as trade union leaders elevate the idea of socialism above all else, the greater the risk to the future of the trade union movement.

If the only conclusion we draw from June 9 is that we must work even harder to elect a Labour government in 1988, the likelihood is that we will face disaster in the long run. If we really believe that jobs, the running of social services and the protection of trade unionism are the priorities, we cannot subordinate the present to a distant dream.

Professional politicians may be able to sit back and assume that their turn will come; muse that politics are about "swings and roundabouts"; and reassure themselves with platitudes like "you win some, you lose some", but trade unions are different creatures. Years of decline can inflict terrible damage. Fifteen years of Conservative government could do irreparable harm to our organization and rights.

I keep referring to 15 years because I have little hope of Labour's ability to sweep the country at the next election. Moreover, the prospect of renewed infighting seems inevitable. The Labour Party remains deeply

divided at every level; the Alliance is likely to try to build on its recent success, and Tory threats to the funding of the Labour Party all add up to a gloomy picture. What makes it worse is Labour's narrow electoral base; its steady decline in popular support over the last 20 years and its lack of appeal to young voters.

If the prospects for Labour look grim, how can the unions avoid a similar fate? The answer is that we have to choose between socialism and survival.

The introduction of proportional representation would probably mean that a socialist government could never be elected. But on the evidence of last Thursday, that

seems probable even under a first-past-the-post system.

But if proportional representation vetoes socialism, it would also veto rampant anti-unionism. This point has already been raised in my own union and I am convinced that it will help Labour's prospects in 1988 if the trade unions insist that the party's manifesto must include a commitment to repealing a measure that rank-and-file members solidly support?

Greater independence from the unions could help Labour in 1988. Likewise, some independence from Labour might also have helped us on June 9. If we had not been so completely tied to the party's coat-tails we could have urged our members to vote SDP, or Liberal if they had a better chance of winning. Over and over again our loyalty to Labour let the Tories in on June 9.

The next two years will help us to decide the way we need to go. If Labour miraculously recovers, ditching unpopular policies, sheds the extremist image, elects an attractive leader and recovers electoral support, all might be well. But if it fails, those of us who believe in the survival of effective trade unionism will have to defend the movement before anything else. We cannot allow a bunch of extremists to destroy us as well as themselves. If Labour cannot save itself, we have to consider our own survival.

This issue is especially important in view of the Government's astonishing feat of winning more seats for fewer votes. If trade unions want to argue that the Government lacks majority support, they can do

so from the position of endorsing proportional representation. So long as our movement is committed to the unfairness of first-past-the-post government, it cannot complain when the system it supports produces bad results.

An alternative to full-scale trade union support for proportional representation could be a mixture of fundamental change in the Labour Party and a redefining of the relationship between the party and ourselves. The party has to become electorally attractive - capable of winning the next general election. This means jettisoning extremist policies, ousting infiltrators, regaining the nation's trust and evolving a new relationship with the trade union movement.

If links remain, it is important that we should not be an electoral liability to Labour and that, in turn, the party should not be an obstacle to our dealing with any non-Labour government. Both wings of the movement will have to be more independent of each other.

I thought that it was tragic when Michael Foot was interviewed on *Panorama* and had to appear incapable of giving a straight answer on pay policy in case it was instantly repudiated.

Exactly the same is likely to happen to any new leader. Let us suppose the Tories keep their word and introduce legislation compelling democratic elections in trade unions. Does anyone really believe that it will help Labour's prospects in 1988 if the trade unions insist that the party's manifesto must include a commitment to repealing a measure that rank-and-file members solidly support?

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David Watt

## Who will invent our foreign policy?

"Better the Devil you know" is one of the ruling principles of international affairs, and on this basis alone Margaret Thatcher's victory would have been a relief to most foreign governments, including some not obviously keen on her style and policies. If you add to this criterion the endless troubles and complications that could be foreseen flowing from a Labour government's "little England" determination to leave the EEC and refuse cruise missiles, you can imagine what a pretty well every politician in Western Europe and the US and secretly, perhaps even in the Third World, and the Communist bloc, is feeling on the subject today.

But things go further than that. Mrs Thatcher is becoming an international phenomenon. She has been in office longer than any other major world figure, with the exception of Mr Trudeau and Mrs Gandhi, and her representative authority, now resoundingly renewed, is therefore growing apace. Her reputation as a tough and formidable leader is also increasing, as it must and will until she falls.

The "Falklands factor" is not as much of a plus as Mrs Thatcher herself evidently believes, but it has certainly established in the international community her possession of what I called at the time the "man-of-war" factor (that extra endowment which suggests that a Nixon, a de Gaulle, a Khomeini, or a Gaddafi, is a dangerous customer really capable of acting on perilous principles such as "death rather than national dishonour").

In short, the world at large is impressed - probably considerably more so than the British electorate, less than a third of whom were prepared to vote for her. Mrs Thatcher, therefore, has political assets which can be cashed on the foreign exchanges. At various moments in the election campaign she herself seemed to be aware of this and indicated that she would now expect to be playing a more prominent part on the international stage.

By putting Sir Geoffrey Howe into the Foreign and Commonwealth Office she has made this transformation easier, for now as Foreign Secretary, instead of an extremely experienced operator with strong ideas of his own (Lord Carrington) and a less experienced operator also with ideas which in some respects ran contrary to her's (Mr Pym), she has a competent lawyer who sticks doggedly to his brief and has demonstrated over the last four years that he can be relied upon to carry out her wishes in spite of the protests and prevarications of a powerful department of state.

All this amounts, on the face of it, to a considerable opportunity. But what is she going to do with it? The answer is that at this moment she probably doesn't know herself. If one talks to anybody - official, politician, or academic - who has ever attempted to get her interested in the construction of a systematic policy in almost any field, one finds that it was impossible to get past her tendency to rush towards those bits of the subject - not necessarily the most important or significant - which seem to offer some kind of refuge for one or two simple preconceptions.

In the domestic sphere Mrs Thatcher has relied on Sir Keith Joseph to provide a framework into which her own instinctive reactions can be placed. Monetarism has

served well in this respect because it purports to offer some eternal "verities" and a rudimentary strategy which accords with housewife analogy about thrift and living within one's means. Insofar as political realities have forced modifications to all this, that has never bothered Mrs Thatcher for the theory never interested her in the first place.

Foreign policy is more difficult. Pure theory is not much help and the business of devising a strategy has to depend on a mixture of flair, far-sightedness, and experience. Prejudgments and instincts may be a useful guide in particular short-lived predicaments, but they will not make foreign policy.

Of course, it can be maintained that Britain has not had a foreign policy in that sense for some time. Lord Carrington, the arch-pragmatist, was flying by the seat of his pants and did it very well until he ran into a mountain in thick cloud. Francis Pym was more or less on automatic pilot by the end. The truth is that the framework of a Conservative foreign policy for the 1980s does not exist.

To suggest what such a policy should contain needs more space and perhaps more Conservatism than I can dispense, but the main strategic problems are easily stated:

● Where should we position ourselves as between Europe and the United States in the disputes of the coming decade? Should we contribute to a more distinctive European voice within the alliance?

● What are the relative priorities of the various forms of defence (nuclear, conventional, ground, air and naval) and what is the relative importance of defence and economic investment?

● How do we defend our interest in the Middle East? If forced to choose - as we may well be - do we lose more by backing South Africa or black Africa?

● Should we try to maintain our cultural influence and if so, how do we do it while cutting "extras" like the BBC, the British Council and overseas student grants?

If these problems are put alongside Mrs Thatcher's beliefs about British foreign policy as they have emerged in the last four years, there is not much match. Her personal list of vital propositions includes:

● Britain should be generally more assertive in protecting its own interests.

● We are not being tough enough with the Soviet Union and not spending enough on defence.

● Our main ally is the US.

● We should stay in Europe, but continue pressing for "better terms". North-South issues are boring. The Third World is feeble and we should think hard about handing out money to such countries.

These are all, with the possible exception of the last, quite arguable propositions, and some of them, if applied to the problems might answer some. At the same time, they will fail to answer others and positively militate against the solution of others still. But quite apart from these practical difficulties, there is the point that it is impossible for Mrs Thatcher to exercise the influence in international affairs that she evidently thinks she can unless she is able to produce a coherent picture of what she wants to achieve. The thousand and one foreign policy and she will have now to make one rapidly - or get one invented for her.

Philip Howard

## For sale: the mind of Richard Burton

The proper study of mankind is man. I predict that there will be a gratifyingly human uproar about the decision by the Royal Anthropological Institute to sell Sir Richard Burton's Library, which is about to be announced. The old buccaneer would have enjoyed it, having always played a part in the turbulent politics of the Ethnological Society and its successors. When leading the seceding Anthropological Society, he gave as his reason: "The deadly shade of respectability, the trail of the slow-worm, is over them all."

As you would expect, Burton's Library is an eclectic and exotic and the just erotic collection, finding space on its shelves not just for the Arabian classics, but also for *The Book of Noodles*, and *Why Women Cannot be Turned into Men* by Janus, published by Blackwood in 1872. Many of the books are heavily annotated by Burton, and some of them are in themselves valuable, for example, two copies of his *Stone Walk*, extensively annotated and corrected.

The library would, of course, have been even more interesting and valuable, if Lady Burton, the devoted and famous Isabel Arundell, had not destroyed his private journals at his death, exclaiming melodramatically: "Let the world rain fire and brimstone on me." We have to thank her, at any rate, for the remarkable Arab text of stone and marble that she built for his mausoleum at Morlake.

It is sad that Burton's books are up for sale. But they are peripheral to the main concerns of the Anthropological Society, and expensive to maintain and insure. I understand that they will be sold only to a purchaser who will keep the library intact and accessible to scholars. The whispers that I hear in the jungle and wadis of the savage anthropological world is that an export licence will be needed for the sale. It is certainly true that the collection is of more literary than anthropological interest these days. Books are a reflection of the

owner's mind: a sobering thought for backs, who tend to be careless magpies of books. What on earth would anybody make of Chairman Mao's *Little Red Book* sitting between *Orlando Furioso* and *Astology for Cats*? There was a reason for the collocation, though I have forgotten it.

Burton's books are a vivid reflection of the man who collected them: the romanticism, the grim humour, the reckless insubordination of opinion. It is an agreeable irony that the Victorian Age, with those famous Victorian values, should have made a best-seller of Burton's most famous work, *The Thousand and One Nights*, which, as a critic said, "reveals a profound acquaintance with the vocabulary and customs of the Muslims, as well as their most secret and most disgusting habits." Burton was an Elizabethan born out of his time: Elizabeth, not Victoria, should have been his queen.

Burton himself was aware of the incongruity of his success: "I struggled for 47 years, I distinguished myself in every way I possibly could. I never had a compliment nor a 'Thank you' nor a single farthing. I translated a doubtful book in my old age, and I immediately made 16,000 guineas. Now that I know the tastes of England, we need never be without money."

In a curious way he was at the same time a very Victorian genius. It was one of the great ages of adventure. Burton himself was a life-long employee of the state. It was his own Commander-in-Chief, General C. J. Napier, who commissioned Burton to investigate the pedlar brothers of Karachi, firing his life-long interest in oriental erotica, which eventually made him rich. I am sorry that the old boy's library is being sold. I wish that I had the money to buy it and the space to put it. At least the surviving image of that extraordinary mind is not going to be broken up.

Caroline Atkinson

## A legal way out of the tribal homelands



Rikhoto: will others follow?

Rikhoto came to Johannesburg in search of work and got a job with the engineering firm he has been with ever since. As a "contract worker", he was not allowed to bring his wife with him.

She remained behind on their small plot in Gazankulu, the "homeland" of the Shangaan people in northern Transvaal, and he would periodically visit her. They now have four children.

In 1980, on the advice of Black Sash, a dedicated group of mainly middle-class white women who try to help blacks to find a way through the maze of apartheid laws, Mr Rikhoto applied to the East Rand Administration Board (Erab) for permanent urban residence rights.

Probably less than a quarter of all South Africa's 21 million blacks have this status. It gives a man the right to have his family living with him in a black township in a house rented from the government or purchased on a 99-year lease, and to move from one township to another. Mr Rikhoto's application rested

on a 1952 amendment to the 1945 Black Urban Areas Consolidation Act, the main influx control law. This offered permanent urban status to anyone who had worked for the same employer for 10 years or for different employers for 15 years.

The authorities replied, however, that a later law, passed in 1968, had closed this loophole.

Backed by the Legal Resources Centre, a group of liberal white lawyers who give legal aid free to blacks who would otherwise be unable to afford it, Mr Rikhoto took his case to the Rand Supreme Court. He won, in September, 1981. But the authorities would still not give way and took the matter to the Appeal Court.

According to government sources, there are about 800,000 black contract workers in urban areas, of whom about a third, it is estimated, are in a position, as a result of the Appeal Court ruling, to follow Mr Rikhoto in getting their right to permanent urban status stamped

سكرا من الامم





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## IT TOOK A RIOT

Once, in the days following the Toxteth riots less than two years ago, the streets of Liverpool 8 were thick with ministers of the Crown. But how chimerical was that vision of permanent secretaries and secretaries of state on Upper Parliament Street and by the Mersey docks. Mr Patrick Jenkin, the new Secretary of State for the Environment, now hesitates over whether there is even to be a ministerial brief for Merseyside; he is shortly to discuss the matter with Mrs Thatcher.

Policy for the inner areas is to be played down. Mr Jenkin has indicated that Lime Street station will see him infrequently. Housing minister Mr Ian Gow, MP for sunny Eastbourne, is unlikely to be held by the shadow of those cavernous estates of Knowsley and Croxteth. That leaves the junior ministers. Those in the Department of the Environment are some of the Government's brightest, but very few. Merseyside and Manchester and inner Birmingham must not be administratively defined as social problems for wets. The legacy of Michael Heseltine is above all this: the physical and social decay of the inner areas is as much a hard challenge for the

corporate private economy as for liberal-minded ministers.

Mr Jenkin might usefully call up the paper, "It Took a Riot", written by Mr Heseltine just after the riots. The agenda for action public and private, set out in that paper is nowhere near completion. Its case for spirited government involvement in reconstruction of the inner cities has been rebutted in no Think Tank exercise or manifesto draft. During his career Mr Heseltine has evinced tendencies towards a now unfashionable "corporatism", which is harmless in his present position at Defence. This led him after Toxteth into a muscular critique of the failures of the capitalist economy in the older urban areas and an unequivocal statement of the need for state intervention (not least in putting its own house in order - literally on those huge and neglected public housing estates.) His points still stand.

"Benign neglect", towards which Mr Jenkin may now be tempted, is a risky policy. The social and economic conditions which assisted those outbreaks two years ago are evidently still in place. And not only in Liverpool and Brixton. There are no sociological laws which say that the good showing made by

the Conservatives in Birmingham in the election confers an immunity against urban tension and, possibly future disorder in the West Midlands in the absence of economic amelioration.

The fact is that the Environment Department has built an apparatus, possibly too bureaucratic, possibly too small, on Heseltine lines for answering some of the problems of the inner city areas. There are some successes - in the refurbishment of public housing, "enveloping" private housing, partnership arrangements with city authorities and the involvement of corporate finance through the building societies and entrepreneurs such as Sir Lawrie Barrett. There are conspicuous failures: in making inner city areas an attractive locale for private commercial and industrial investment, in the web-like complexity of finance for city government. But the effort begun by Mr Heseltine remains worthwhile and needs political leadership from the top table. The failure to make a ministerial appointment with some specific reference either to Merseyside or the inner cities would be a short-sighted step which Mrs Thatcher and her ministers might come to regret.

## ANDROPOV'S UNEASY CROWN

What changes will ensue in the USSR, now that the leader of the Soviet Communist Party has become President? For Mr Andropov the title is not in itself important: the late Leonid Brezhnev performed many of the functions of head of state for years before ousting the incumbent and assuming the Presidency. Diplomatic protocol is simpler, of course, when the man who wields actual power as head of the party is officially recognized as leader of the state also.

The real importance, however, relates to the matter of Politburo factionalism. Mr Andropov's chief rival in the ruling body, Konstantin Chernenko, made the keynote speech at the party Central Committee plenum earlier this week, and yesterday warmly proposed Mr Andropov as the sole candidate for the presidency. But this does not mean, as he claimed, that "complete unity" had been achieved in the leadership, nor that the problems facing the USSR can be tackled more effectively.

Mr Andropov now occupies the posts of party General Secretary, Chairman of the Defence Council, and President. But Nikolai Tikhonov has not been replaced as Prime Minister, although he is seventy-eight and a Brezhnev appointee. Nor has the numerical strength of the Politburo, depleted by deaths and other departures, been substantially increased by the appointment of Andropov supporters.

There are still only eleven full members of the top body, although Vitaly Voronikov, a former ambassador to Cuba whose career linked him with Mr Andropov, joined the seven non-voting candidate members. To cope with mounting problems in domestic and foreign policy, the Politburo needs an influx of younger blood, but Mr Andropov has not been strong enough to introduce the men he wants against the opposition of other members.

The most significant promotion was that of Grigory Rontanov, the Leningrad party leader, who moves to a key post in the party secretariat while

remaining a full member of the Politburo. Both Andropov and Chernenko are old men; reports of their ill-health are possibly exaggerated, and in the conditions of secrecy surrounding the personal lives of the Soviet leaders, are likely to be confirmed only by their deaths. But the sickness of both could be the explanation for the uneasy truce which now appears to prevail in the Kremlin.

The Soviet political system needs continuity and firm leadership to avoid disintegration. On the departure of either of the two chief leaders, the other could ensure that business carried on as usual while a younger man prepared to assume power. There is still no constitutional means of selecting the top man in the USSR, and Politburo wheeling and dealing takes time. This latest promotion means that apart from Andropov and Chernenko, there are now two younger men who are members of both Politburo and secretariat: Mikhail Gorbachev, who is fifty-two, and Grigory Romanov, who is sixty.

For almost five years Mr Gorbachev has had overall charge of Soviet agriculture - a notoriously difficult area in which there has been little improvement - but now he has expanded his responsibilities to cover the economy as a whole, and his recent visit to Canada saw him successfully filling an important role in promoting Soviet foreign policy. Mr Romanov has yet to prove himself in his secretariat post; in Leningrad he was known more for his high living than for his ability in economic management, but his record compares well with that of other local leaders.

Another Politburo member, Geidar Aliev, also sixty, shares with Mr Andropov a KGB background and was brought to Moscow from Azerbaijan last November shortly after his colleague succeeded Mr Brezhnev. As a First Deputy Prime Minister he will no doubt hope to replace the present aged incumbent, being younger than the other First Deputy, seventy-four year old Foreign Minister Andrei Gromyko.

## POOR OLD PINOCHET

General Augusto Pinochet has been in power for nearly a decade and his government has declared that it will only return Chile to democratic rule, by stages, between 1989 and 1997. Is that calendar still believable, in the face of growing discontent? For some time it has been clear that the economic model of the "Chicago boys" has failed - undone by excessive dogmatism and by world recession. Chile has not attracted foreign investment, has failed in ambitious schemes of privatization and has contracted what is proportionately one of the highest foreign debts in the world. The government's policies have failed to generate employment or to arrest general industrial and agricultural decline, and nobody has much interest in sheltering this small and vulnerable economy.

The political consequences are now appearing. General Pinochet's main achievement has always been the restoration of order after the chaos of Salvador Allende's *Unidad Popular*, and this gave him at least a negative popularity that critics and exiles

under-estimated. Too many people demonstrating in the streets can diminish and destroy that asset, and the organizers of the monthly "days of protest" - last Tuesday's was the second - pose him the most serious threat he has yet faced. The protest was organized by the trades unions, but discontent has also increased in Chile's wide middle-class, and political opposition has become more visible, vocal and united.

It is not surprising that General Pinochet has threatened to "crack down" if necessary whatever the cost, but that will not solve his problems. His backing for the formation of a pro-government *movimiento* announced at the end of last month, revives the scheme he has twice rejected in the past and which is opposed by many of his erstwhile supporters. It is usually the case with such movements that they are best formed before they are needed, not after. The General, hitherto Latin America's most hermetic ruler, has also been making other populist gestures of his own. He is convinced that he enjoys at

least the passive support of an overwhelming majority of his countrymen, as well as the backing of the last Prussian-modelled army left in the world. He has previously mastered without difficulty any military dissidents.

What he has not got is a policy. Certainly some of the economic malaise has international causes, but blaming it on that alone is as unconvincing as laying the demonstrations at the door of Soviet conspiracy. Just "cracking down" will further isolate his government internationally and though he has himself a proven capacity for enduring isolation, this may deepen his economic difficulties. The conviction may grow general that there can be no solution to economic difficulties without political change. In times of austerity, politics is at least something a poor country can afford. Ten years is a long deprivation. General Pinochet has no "malvinas" to hand, and will not restore his popularity by buying a second-hand aircraft carrier, even one that has seen action against Argentina.

## Democratic ways with Labour

From Lord McIntosh  
Sir, What price Labour Party democracy now?

After years of bloody campaigns to widen the franchise for leadership elections, here are the union barons, right and left, calmly disposing of millions of electoral college votes, without even a gesture of consulting ordinary union members who pay the political levy.

And how many constituency Labour parties will seek the views of rank-and-file members, instead of arrogating the choice to the cabals of "activists"?

The first candidate for the leadership of the Labour Party to denounce these Tammany Hall manoeuvres will deserve the support of all democratic socialists. Yours faithfully, ANDREW MCINTOSH, House of Lords, June 15.

## Test-tube babies

From the Bishop of Middlesbrough  
Sir, With reference to your correspondent's report (June 2) of the Catholic Social Welfare Commission's submission to the Warnock committee on *in vitro* fertilization I wish to make the following points:

1. The Warnock committee has explicitly excluded discussion of abortion and contraception from its agenda.  
2. The submission of the Social Welfare Commission contains the following passage: "We do not accept abortion. However, as required by the committee, we present from discussion of abortion, but note the abortive consequences following diagnosis of defects in cloned embryos, etc. (para. 32)."

In paragraph 43 of its submission the Social Welfare Commission explicitly dissociates itself from the 1967 Abortion Act. (I trust that the above will make clear the commission's attitude to abortion in general and the 1967 Act in particular.) Yours faithfully, AUGUSTINE HARRIS, Episcopal President, Catholic Social Welfare Commission, Bishop's House, 16 Cambridge Road, Middlesbrough, Cleveland, June 2.

## Railway closure

From Mr R. E. Field  
Sir, Has anyone's reason succumbed to Mr Geoffrey Sampson's strange logic (June 7) that it would be preferable to close the Settle-to-Carlisle railway than to replace the beautiful, though irreparable, viaduct at Ribbleshead with a modern structure? If so, it should be pointed out that neither Mr Sampson nor anyone else should be complacent about their chances of enjoying the prospect of that noble viaduct as a romantic ruin. For Ribbleshead viaduct is likely to be demolished; indeed, walkers beneath it have for years been warned about the danger of falling masonry.

Building a new viaduct would, of course, be a marvellous project. It would ensure the retention of a major diversionary route from the Midlands to the North and it would help to lessen the problem of unemployment. Everything made by man sooner or later requires replacement and the accustomed vision requires a little adjustment. Yours faithfully, R. E. FIELD, 47 Leaside Crescent, Temple Fortune, NW11, June 2.

## Rampant rape

From Mrs Stella Herbert  
Sir, Even if rape growers are as scrupulous in the use of spraying as Mr Michael Bunbury argues (June 13) the spread of the crop could well precipitate a decrease in beekeeping.

Rape honey crystallises rapidly in the comb, sometimes within 24 hours, and is therefore very difficult to extract. The beekeeper might consider the extra trouble to be worthwhile if the end product were of decent quality, but rape honey has the appearance, consistency and flavour of fondant icing. As one beekeeper said to me, "The only thing to do with rape honey is sell it and get out of the country fast."

Yours faithfully, STELLA HERBERT, 23 Cedar Drive, Market Bosworth, Nuneaton, Warwickshire, June 13.

## As she is spoke

From Mr Nigel Warwick  
Sir, The "examination in colloquial French" referred to by Dr Harte (June 3) is presumably the Advanced-level French Syllabus B examination introduced by this board in the June, 1982, examination. The syllabus is designed to provide practical and realistic objectives for linguistically orientated pupils and lays special emphasis on the understanding and use of contemporary French, including communication in spoken French.

The entry for this examination is as yet small compared with that for Advanced-level French Syllabus A, but there are certainly state schools in the London area which are following the course leading to this recently introduced new examination. Yours faithfully, NIGEL WARWICK, Assistant Secretary, University of London and Entrance and School Examinations Council, The University of London GCE Board, 66-72 Gower Street, WC1, June 8.

## Seeing justice done

From Mr Paul Drury  
Sir, I trust that the Old Bailey authority has blushed to read Mr Neill Monaghan's letter (June 7) rightly claiming that the famous statue of Justice thereon is not blindfolded. Yet this body has remained blind to the fact that upon the plinth of a monument under their surveillance some wanton hand has inscribed (c. 1974) an "A. DRURY" and "R.A. 1913".

Are others to go on grinning while this splendid statue bears it? Yours faithfully, PAUL DRURY, 67 Fitzgerald Road, E11, June 8.

## On a clear day

From Mr Alan Searle  
Sir, The combined heights of the two highest mountains mentioned by Mr Oliver Barratt (June 7) is 5,525 ft. According to my Whitaker's, the horizon at a height of 5,000 ft, taking refraction into account, is 93 miles, far short of the 150 miles to the mountains of Donegal. Even at 20,000 ft the distance to the horizon is only 186 miles. That would indeed be some refutation which raised Errigal a few thousand feet in the air.

Perhaps Mr Barratt and his friends, quite understandably and wisely, took a few drams of something strong when climbing Beinn Sguilaidh in such intense cold, or maybe they were just overwhelmed at the summit by the scenic grandeur all around them. Yours sincerely, ALAN SEARLE, 67 Fitzgerald Road, E11, June 8.

## Clock symphony

From Mr A. J. Ramage-Gibson  
Sir, I wonder if it has occurred to Mr Deacon (June 7) that many users of audible watches do so for important medical reasons?

Sufferers from Parkinson's disease, diabetes and other afflictions frequently require strict time medication. Are they to be denied access to public concerts and the like?

The real menace lies in the increasing unawareness and intolerance in our society towards the less fortunate amongst us. Yours sincerely, A. J. RAMAGE-GIBSON, The Fiddle, Temple, Marlow, Buckinghamshire, June 8.

## Dangerous curves

From Mrs J. Huber  
Sir, I was intrigued by the phrase "hyperbolic swoons" in yesterday's *Times* (June 8). Julie Kavanagh was describing ballet dancers on the Royal Ballet's visit to China.

The swoons could have been graceful and curved like a hyperbola, or exaggerated and not very serious as in hyperbole. Was it intended to be parabolic? Yours faithfully, J. HUBER, Langens House, Milton Keynes Village, Milton Keynes, Buckinghamshire, June 9.

## Economic policy and unemployment

From Mr Charles Williams  
Sir, Your leading article of June 13 on economic policy was remarkable for the absence of any comment on the exchange rate. One important factor in determining policy towards interest rates must be the Government's attitude towards sterling.

There may be a temptation, encouraged by your leading article, to allow the pound to further appreciate by pursuing tight fiscal and monetary policies. Surely this would be wrong?

The Conservatives' appeal rested on building upon the recovery that was beginning without sacrificing all that had been achieved in the fight against inflation and not on price stability at all costs. A strong pound may offer a quick route to a nil rate of inflation, but at the cost of stopping recovery in its tracks.

A reduction in interest rates will be most welcome, not least because it should help to take the upward pressure off sterling and thereby assist the international competitiveness of British industry.

There is no need for a fall in interest rates to be accompanied by cuts in public expenditure since cash limits will ensure that spending is kept under control in the financial year as a whole even if it was higher than expected in April, a consequence perhaps of public authorities attempting to reduce their underspending in the 1982-83 financial year and overshooting at the beginning of the new year.

Yours faithfully, C. A. WILLIAMS, 40 Shandon Road, SW4, June 14.

## A generation gap

From Mr J. D. S. Mackay  
Sir, May I add a comment to the nuclear debate based on some novel technological considerations. The efficacy of the next generation of weapons will crucially depend on the state of information technology.

All the indications are that the Soviet Union is well behind in this electronic race, and as time goes on the advantage of the West will only increase.

The policy of the Soviet leaders, ever since the Bolshevik revolution, was based on the expectation that time was working for them. Consequently they always tried to avoid major military confrontations while willing to engage in local conflicts.

For the first time in history it may be in the Soviet interest to start a nuclear war. The reasons are obvious. The Soviet High Command may soon come to the conclusion that they are bound to lose the arms race. And their last chance is a pre-emptive strike. The

way to avoid that is to be generous to them at the Geneva talks. Andropov's offer of counting warheads and including in the count the British and French nuclear missiles seems a reasonable one. It could very well serve as the basis for an agreement.

The implications for the defence of Britain are equally far reaching. The electronic brains of the new weapons will be able to recognize enemy tanks and aeroplanes. A conventional attack by 10,000 tanks could be stopped by 10,000 warheads carrying conventional explosives.

It might very well be expensive to perfect such weapons systems but it seems money much better spent than to increase the accuracy of the nuclear deterrent (higher accuracy would not, anyway, increase the deterrent value) by introducing Trident.

Yours faithfully, L. SOLYMAR, Brasenose College, Oxford, June 1.

## Rule by consent

From Mr Nicholas Thorowgood  
Sir, Lady Trumpington (June 14) speaks more truth than she realizes.

For the sake of a general election is to ask the people by whom, and in accordance with what policies they consent to be governed, it can be seen at a glance that, at this and the last election, between 55 and 60 per cent of those who voted made it very clear that, given the choice, they would not consent to be governed by an Executive led by Mrs Thatcher. The rules, however, denied them the choice.

Our Constitution only works to the extent that the people at large are prepared to endure such a government (much as they may dislike it). The experience of the human race shows that nations are only governable (whether by popular or unpopular policies) if virtually all the people accept the moral right of their leaders to govern them.

Once a substantial minority perceives (eg 25 per cent) that the Executive does not have the consent of the majority, it demands constitutional change. Sooner or later the majority will perceive it, too. If the government ignores it, then sooner or later the worm will turn.

Yours etc, NICHOLAS THOROWGOOD, Garlands, Upper Basildon, Reading, Berkshire, June 14.

## Debarred from parish churches

From Lord Norwich  
Sir, As part of my research for the guide on which I am at present engaged to the best of English architecture, I have done my best, over the past five or six years, to visit every outstanding parish church in the country, south of a line drawn from Gloucester to the Wash.

About half of these I have found open; for another quarter I have been able - though sometimes only after considerable difficulty - to find the key at the vicarage or some nearby house. But the sad fact is that about one church in four I have had to abandon altogether, having found it impenetrable.

Out of some 600 visits there has, I am glad to say, been one church only which fell into none of the above categories: an outstandingly interesting church in Surrey whose vicar, run to earth in his study a hundred yards away, refused outright either to lend me the key or to take me to the church himself.

While the general accessibility of parish churches depends, in my experience, very much on the particular diocese, I fully understand that in many areas - and particularly in the towns - the incidence of robbery and vandalism makes it impossible to keep a church open throughout the day. Would it, however, be too much to ask that, for the benefit of those who love parish churches for their own sake as well as for those desirous of private prayer or meditation, when a church is closed there should always be a notice in the porch giving the address where the key can be obtained?

On such occasions I see no reason why the visitor should not be asked to pay a deposit or, indeed, a small fee to church funds.

And while we are on the subject, why cannot appropriate churches install coin-in-the-slot lighting, instead of deliberately concealing their switches? In many of these instances costs would be regained in matter of months.

Our parish churches are a unique treasure of a kind that no other country can boast; must *bona fide* visitors to them be sent, quite so often, empty away?

Yours faithfully, JOHN JULIUS NORWICH, Flat No 8, 38 Courtyard Gardens, SW5, June 15.

From Mr R. Sinclair Thomson  
Sir, Passing a lovely little church in Hampshire I paused to visit it. I found the church open and at the entrance a sign, "Please pray for any vandals who may enter here". Nothing has ever been stolen or vandalized.

Yours sincerely, ROYALE SINCLAIR THOMSON, 6 Farley Hill Court, Farley Hill, nr Reading, Berkshire, June 11.

From Mr John Hawkins  
Sir, In earlier times, before "secular" activities were hived off to the parish hall, churches were often in use for seven days a week, for a variety of extra-liturgical purposes.

A return to this form of stewardship might help to solve more problems than that of vandalism alone.

Yours faithfully, JOHN HAWKINS, 44 Castlemead Avenue, South Croydon, Surrey, June 10.

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**Noted merchant  
banker**

[illegible]

**UK Falkland Islands Committee and Falkland Islands Association**  
The United Kingdom Falkland Islands Committee and the Falkland Islands Association held a reception at Lincoln's Inn on Wednesday for the Civil Commission, Sir Peter Hunt, and the

The guests were received by Sir John Barlow, Chairman of the UKFIC, and Mr E W H Christie, Chairman of the FIA.

Mr John Hopewell, President of the Fellowship of Postgraduate Medicine, and Dr Barry Hoffbrand, editor of the *Postgraduate Medical Journal*, held a reception at Chandos House last night for friends of the *Postgraduate Medical Journal*.

## Dinners

**English-Speaking Union**  
The Earl of Cowrie was the guest of honour and principal speaker at the diamond jubilee dinner of the Cheshire branch of the English-Speaking Union held last night at the Town Hall, Chester. The Duke

of Westminster, president of the branch, was in the chair and the other speakers were the Mayor of Chester, Sir Donald Tebbit, Chairman of the ESU of the Commonwealth, and Mr Derek Harris, branch chairman.

A dinner was held last night at Vintner's Hall, at which Matthew Clark and Sons Ltd entertained members of the Marcell company of Cognac and the principals of other similar businesses with whom they have traded for the past 150 years. Those attending were:

Colnett W K Buckley, Mr F J A Chambers,  
Mr A M T Eastwood, Mr H G Hertz, Mr A G  
Pulver, Mr R A Gibbs, Mr G C Green, Mr E  
Linden Hill, Mr R C M de Kromp, Mr R H  
McMillan, Major G C Maxwell, Mr R B  
Neame, Mr A A J Palmer, Mr C J R  
Mr G F Purchess, Mr R W Smith, Mr C  
S Woodhouse.

From Marlborough: Mr A J Marshall, Mr R  
Marshall, Mr C Pitts, Mr M Pitts,  
Mr J Pitts, Mr C Pitts, Mr M Pitts,  
Mr M Pitts, Mr M Pitts, Mr M Pitts.

Gordon, Mr W P Buckley, Mr J Vevale.  
 From Matthew Clark, Mr N J Gordon Clark,  
 Mr P H Gordon Clark, Mr F W Gordon  
 Clark, Mr G L Gordon Clark, Mr C  
 Gordon Clark, Mr J V M Gordon Clark, Mr  
 G N J Banks, Mr C Hobbs, Mr R H Walters,  
 Mr W R Child, Mr J M G Cox, Mr R O  
 Hughes, Mr G M McKenzie, Mr K G Bailey,  
 Mr C D Love, Mr A A Clarke, Mr J S  
 Sullivan, Mr S A Westbrook.

**Law Society**  
 The President of the Law Society.

Sir Max Williams, the vice-president and council gave a dinner yesterday in the Law Society's Hall for the Treasurer, Mr Justice Goulding, and Masters of the Bench of Lincoln's Inn.

**Science Policy Foundation**  
Sir Jean Maddock, Dr Gordon

Fryers, Professor Ang Hoo Ghee (Singapore) and Professor S. Sabharwal (Thailand) were the speakers at a dinner given by the Science Policy Foundation at the Athenaeum Club last night on the occasion of an ASEAN/EEC symposium held at the Royal Society. Dr Maurice Goldsmith

**Service dinners**  
**Seaforth Highlanders**  
A dinner of the Culdich'n Righ, Duke of Albany's Club was held at Claridge's hotel yesterday. The Earl of Cromartie presided and Brigadier

**Royal Corps of Transport**  
Officers of the Royal Corps of Transport held a dinner last night at the Royal Corps of Transport Headquarters Mess, Aldershot. The Director General of Transport and Movements, Major-General W. M. Allen, presided. The official

**RAF Staff College**  
The Commandant, Air Vice-Marshal A. G. Skingsley, was present at a dining-in night held at the RAF Staff College, Bracknell, yesterday.

The annual guest night of the RAF Chaplains' Branch was held last night at the RAF Chaplains' School, Amport House, Andover. Air Chief

Chief of the Air Staff, was the guest of honour. Other guests, who were received by the Ven G. R. Renowden, Chaplain-in-Chief, included the Rev H. J. Stuart, Air Vice-Marshal B. Brownlow, Air Vice-Marshal R. G. Price, Air Vice-

the letters were or what they contained.

Miss Palmer left £15,500 net.  
Other estates include (act. before  
tax paid):  
Alexandrott, Alexandra, of Kensington,  
London, £353,052  
Bell, Mrs Iris, of Snape, Suffolk  
£199,979  
Bowen, Mr Handel Vivian, of  
Penmaen, West Glamorganshire

Cross, Mrs Winifred Joan, of Frinton, Essex	£203.039
Cubitt, Mrs Helen Margaret, of Northampton	£242.418
Elliot, Miss Ethel Elizabeth, of Brixham, Devon	£238.103
Forster-Croft, Mr Alfred, of Seaton, Devon	£300.219

including Colette, Gide, Malraux, Maurols, Proust, Stexupéry and many others. She also sold rights in French-language books to English publishers by such writers as William Faulkner, Ernest Hemingway, T.S. Eliot, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Dorothy L. Sayers, and Paul Scott. Gertrude Stein and Dylan Thomas.

In more than sixty years as an agent her forceful personality secured the respect of authors and publishers in Paris, London and New York and her salon was a meeting place for authors and intellectuals from around the world.

Her husband died in 1938.

On June 3  
Harrods  
that the co  
fund the

hard mass  
songwriting  
police and

by the  
house  
of  
the  
city

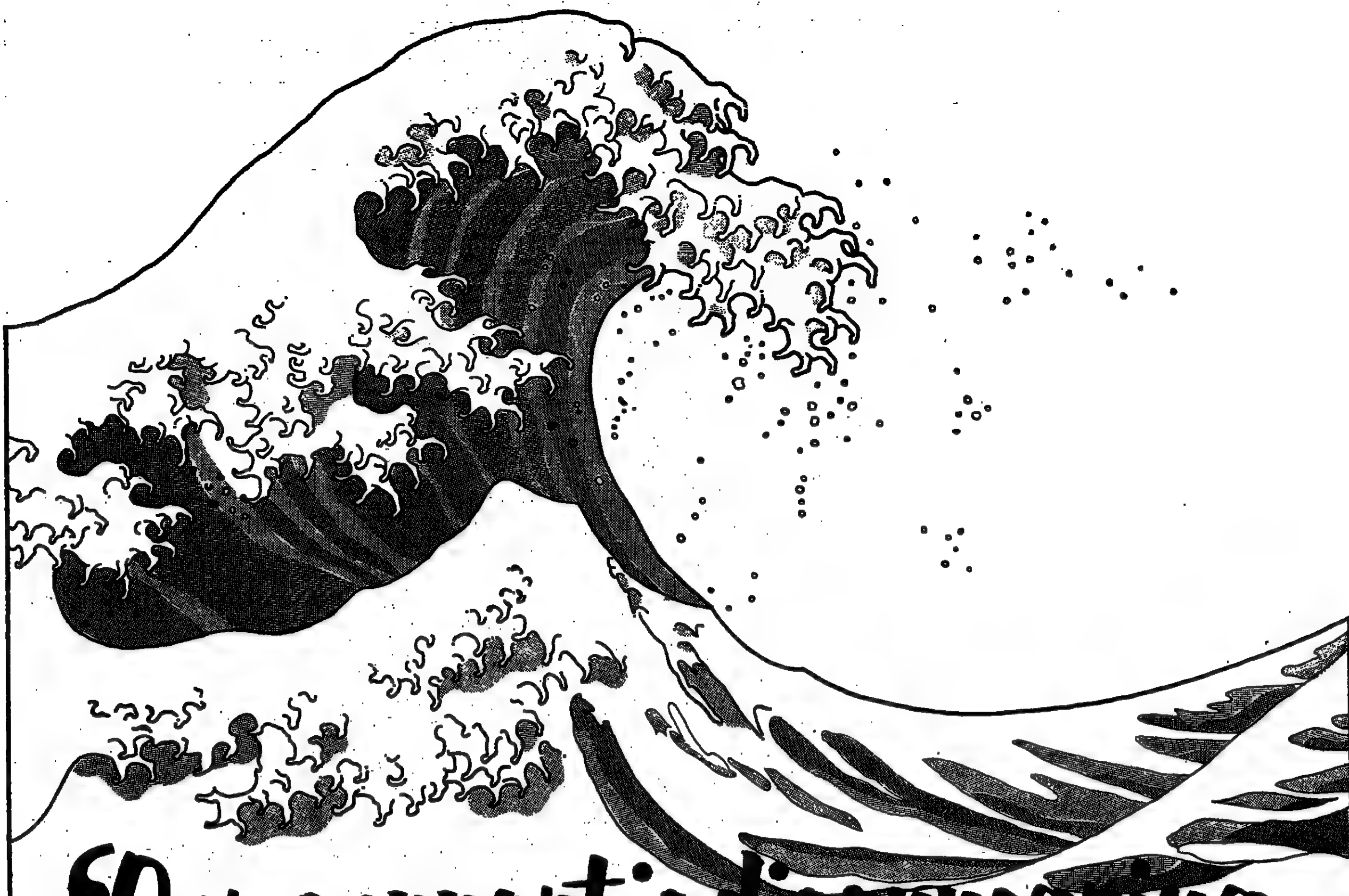
... ..

*(Signature)*

*(continued)*

OUR NAME





# 'Our support is disappearing under the waves'

Chairman, House of Fraser, June 3rd 1983

***On June 30th, please vote for a demerger of Harrods. All the plans of the board require that the continuing success of Harrods must fund the rest of the House of Fraser group.***

Lord Fraser, who bought Harrods in 1959, kept it scrupulously separate during his chairmanship, a policy followed by Sir Hugh and his board.

In 1977, Lornrho took a major shareholding in the House of Fraser. We have £100 million invested in the store group. Since 1980, we have become more critical of the return on investment, and most doubtful of the capital expenditure programme of the board. About 30% of the capital they invest, is, after all, ours.

We are now proposing that Harrods should become an entirely independent company, in the belief that the present policy of using its profits and prospects to fund the capital programme is not in the best interests of the group. On June 30th, after every conceivable delay, House of Fraser will allow a simple ordinary resolution to be put to the vote.

In our six years as shareholders, we have put three resolutions to the vote. In 1980, a small increase in the dividend was suggested and rejected.

Dividends have subsequently increased against lower profits. In 1981, we opposed the sale and leaseback of the freehold Oxford Street property of D. H. Evans. Today, the performance of D. H. Evans is saddled with inescapable obligations for 123 years, as a result of the leaseback. Now we hope to have your support and understanding for the proposal to amend the trading strategy to secure improved profits on your investment in the group.

It is our opinion that the success of this resolution will further strengthen the share price, which our presence as a shareholder has long enhanced and supported.

***There is no unusual or legal obstacle to the demerger of Harrods. Concern at the slipping level of support prompted the chairman of House of Fraser to make his remarks and to introduce a special technical resolution. We believe that the strength of a straightforward ordinary resolution passed by the shareholders cannot be diminished, and we ask you to vote accordingly.***

Issued by  
**LONRHO**  
Plc.



## MARKET REPORT by Michael Clark

## Confidence in Courtaulds

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began, June 6. Dealings end, June 17. Contingency Day, June 20. Settlement Day, June 27.

continued to take a brighter view of industry prospects now that the price looks stable at \$29 a barrel.

Shell again took the lead closing 18p dearer at a high of 584p following yesterday's

Brokers Sheppard & Chase have been looking at Arden Electric and are excited by the group's new starter for fluorescent lighting. But they want investors to wait until the product hits the shops before committing themselves. Sheppard & Chase are looking for profits of £4.25m next year after several years of losses. The shares closed 10p lower at 249p.

comments in *The Times* BP responded with a 6p jump to 420p followed by Barmah 3p to 167p, Ultramar 8p to 627p, while renewed bid talk was worth a further 6p on Tricentral at 232p.

Brill also improved 2p to 220p, after 22p, reflecting the recent change in attitude to the group's prospects.

A stronger pound helped to stanch early losses in gilts where this week's cut in bank base rates has already been discounted. Falls of up to 1p were almost wiped out by the close to leave prices mixed. The pound closed 0.3 cents up at \$1.5370.

Among leading equities BAT Industries rose 20p to 585p after news that shares of Imasco, BAT's Canadian associate, had been suspended on the Toronto stock market pending an announcement. BAT refused to comment.

Big talk was also good for another 7p rise in Roverat 212p amid hopes that the giant paper and pulp group would be the next sailing blue chip to come under the hammer. Shares of Erskine House Investments were suspended at 50p.

113p ahead of an announcement from the company relating to certain acquisitions.

Mr David Wickins, British Car Auctions chairman, said yesterday that he hopes to have negotiated a refinancing deal with Group Lotus, the troubled

Shares of Prince of Wales Hotels have held steady at 108p since Taddale Investments announced its 16.3 per cent stake last week. The market is banking on Taddale taking its stake to 29.9 per cent judging by the absence of sellers this week.

Norfolk-based sports car company, by next Monday evening. Group Lotus was unchanged at 50p.

"I am having meetings with the directors over the weekend and I am hopeful we will have a deal in the bag by Monday," he said. Mr Wickins said that under terms he was proposing,

British Car Auctions would inject £1.5m of cash in return for new equity which would give BCA a one-third stake in Lotus.

Mr Wickins faces competition from the Japanese car manufacturer Toyota, which has also expressed an interest in putting money up in return for equity.

However, Mr Wickins said he thought the board would favour British backing over Japanese. "We are not competing with Toyota. It may be that they will come in on an equity basis on the M90 sports car project. My package is completely different from that," BCA fell 1p to 210p.

Astaire & Co, the brokers, said it spent about £2m on behalf of clients buying 11 million shares of GRA, the greyhound stadium owner, at 6.5 per cent stake lifted GRA shares up to a record 18p for the year. But Astaire stressed no bid is intended or expected.

Shares of BET spurted 7p to 340p as another large buyer appeared in the market. Mr Jeffrey Sterling's Town & City Properties refused to say whether it was behind the buying.



1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
111	58	57	Murray's N. Whisky	111	0	2.8	2.8
112	58	57	Do. B.	112	0	2.7	3.3
113	58	57	Murray's W. Whisky	113	0	2.7	3.3
114	58	57	Do. B.	114	0	2.7	3.3
115	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	115	0	2.7	3.3
116	58	57	Do. B.	116	0	2.7	3.3
117	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	117	0	2.7	3.3
118	58	57	Do. B.	118	0	2.7	3.3
119	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	119	0	2.7	3.3
120	58	57	Do. B.	120	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
121	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	121	0	2.7	3.3
122	58	57	Do. B.	122	0	2.7	3.3
123	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	123	0	2.7	3.3
124	58	57	Do. B.	124	0	2.7	3.3
125	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	125	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
126	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	126	0	2.7	3.3
127	58	57	Do. B.	127	0	2.7	3.3
128	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	128	0	2.7	3.3
129	58	57	Do. B.	129	0	2.7	3.3
130	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	130	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
131	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	131	0	2.7	3.3
132	58	57	Do. B.	132	0	2.7	3.3
133	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	133	0	2.7	3.3
134	58	57	Do. B.	134	0	2.7	3.3
135	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	135	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
136	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	136	0	2.7	3.3
137	58	57	Do. B.	137	0	2.7	3.3
138	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	138	0	2.7	3.3
139	58	57	Do. B.	139	0	2.7	3.3
140	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	140	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
141	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	141	0	2.7	3.3
142	58	57	Do. B.	142	0	2.7	3.3
143	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	143	0	2.7	3.3
144	58	57	Do. B.	144	0	2.7	3.3
145	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	145	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
146	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	146	0	2.7	3.3
147	58	57	Do. B.	147	0	2.7	3.3
148	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	148	0	2.7	3.3
149	58	57	Do. B.	149	0	2.7	3.3
150	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	150	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
151	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	151	0	2.7	3.3
152	58	57	Do. B.	152	0	2.7	3.3
153	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	153	0	2.7	3.3
154	58	57	Do. B.	154	0	2.7	3.3
155	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	155	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
156	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	156	0	2.7	3.3
157	58	57	Do. B.	157	0	2.7	3.3
158	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	158	0	2.7	3.3
159	58	57	Do. B.	159	0	2.7	3.3
160	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	160	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
161	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	161	0	2.7	3.3
162	58	57	Do. B.	162	0	2.7	3.3
163	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	163	0	2.7	3.3
164	58	57	Do. B.	164	0	2.7	3.3
165	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	165	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
166	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	166	0	2.7	3.3
167	58	57	Do. B.	167	0	2.7	3.3
168	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	168	0	2.7	3.3
169	58	57	Do. B.	169	0	2.7	3.3
170	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	170	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
171	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	171	0	2.7	3.3
172	58	57	Do. B.	172	0	2.7	3.3
173	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	173	0	2.7	3.3
174	58	57	Do. B.	174	0	2.7	3.3
175	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	175	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
176	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	176	0	2.7	3.3
177	58	57	Do. B.	177	0	2.7	3.3
178	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	178	0	2.7	3.3
179	58	57	Do. B.	179	0	2.7	3.3
180	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	180	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
181	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	181	0	2.7	3.3
182	58	57	Do. B.	182	0	2.7	3.3
183	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	183	0	2.7	3.3
184	58	57	Do. B.	184	0	2.7	3.3
185	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	185	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
186	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	186	0	2.7	3.3
187	58	57	Do. B.	187	0	2.7	3.3
188	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	188	0	2.7	3.3
189	58	57	Do. B.	189	0	2.7	3.3
190	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	190	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
191	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	191	0	2.7	3.3
192	58	57	Do. B.	192	0	2.7	3.3
193	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	193	0	2.7	3.3
194	58	57	Do. B.	194	0	2.7	3.3
195	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	195	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
196	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	196	0	2.7	3.3
197	58	57	Do. B.	197	0	2.7	3.3
198	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	198	0	2.7	3.3
199	58	57	Do. B.	199	0	2.7	3.3
200	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	200	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
201	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	201	0	2.7	3.3
202	58	57	Do. B.	202	0	2.7	3.3
203	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	203	0	2.7	3.3
204	58	57	Do. B.	204	0	2.7	3.3
205	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	205	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
206	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	206	0	2.7	3.3
207	58	57	Do. B.	207	0	2.7	3.3
208	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	208	0	2.7	3.3
209	58	57	Do. B.	209	0	2.7	3.3
210	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	210	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
211	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	211	0	2.7	3.3
212	58	57	Do. B.	212	0	2.7	3.3
213	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	213	0	2.7	3.3
214	58	57	Do. B.	214	0	2.7	3.3
215	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	215	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
216	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	216	0	2.7	3.3
217	58	57	Do. B.	217	0	2.7	3.3
218	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	218	0	2.7	3.3
219	58	57	Do. B.	219	0	2.7	3.3
220	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	220	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
221	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	221	0	2.7	3.3
222	58	57	Do. B.	222	0	2.7	3.3
223	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	223	0	2.7	3.3
224	58	57	Do. B.	224	0	2.7	3.3
225	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	225	0	2.7	3.3

1982-83	High	Low	Company	Price	Change	Yield	P/E
226	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	226	0	2.7	3.3
227	58	57	Do. B.	227	0	2.7	3.3
228	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	228	0	2.7	3.3
229	58	57	Do. B.	229	0	2.7	3.3
230	58	57	New Britain W. Whisky	230	0	2.7	3.3

21	60	Berkeley Exp	58	+10	8.0	2.3	18.8
110	Cornell Hldgs	178					
88	Eubotic Ord	110	-2				
434	Good Relations	148					
62	Merrydown Wine	548	-3	3.3	2.3	30.3	
100	Metal Bulletin	135		7.1	1.3	17.4	
142	Microlease	145		8.6	6.3	12.6	
106	Miles 33	128	-3	2.9	2.0		
28	New Court Nar	47	+8	2.9	4.4	21.6	



## Investment and Finance

City Editor  
Anthony Hilton

THE TIMES

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200 Gray's Inn Road  
London WC1X 8EZ  
Telephone 01-837 1234

## STOCK EXCHANGES

Index 715.7 up 0.2  
 Gilts 83.08 up 0.08  
 Argentinian 22.348  
 Nikkei Dow Jones  
 8645.33 up 48.48  
 Hang Seng Index  
 4.87 up 48.48  
 Dow Jones Average  
 (latest) 1246.90 up 9.62

## CURRENCIES

**LONDON CLOSE**  
 Sterling \$1.5270 up 0.25 cent  
 Ex 84.3 up 0.1  
 A 3.9050 down 0.075  
 F 11.7275 down 0.0225  
 n 367.75 down 2.0  
 Dollar  
 Ex 125.5 down 0.7  
 A 2.5580 down 90 pts  
 Bid 15 up \$5.50  
**NEW YORK LATEST**  
 Bid \$412.50  
 Sterling \$1.5265

## INTEREST RATES

**Domestic rates**  
 90 day bank 9 1/8%  
 12 month bank 9 1/8%  
**Inter-currency rates**  
 North dollar 9.9/16-9.11/16  
 North DM 5 1/2%  
 North Fr 14 1/2-14%  
**90 Day Fixed Rate Sterling**  
 90 day Finance Scheme 10  
 Average reference rate for  
 week ending May 4 to June  
 1983 inclusive: 10.334 per  
 cent

## PRICE CHANGES

French 190p + 40p  
 zer K. 25p + 40p  
 aw Carpets 30.5p + 3.5p  
 fire Pacific "A" 118.5p + 5p  
 vid 73p + 7p  
 seafarer 385p + 33p  
 toy 28p + 4p  
 nimex 30p - 3p  
 whinson 25p - 2p  
 O 85p - 5p  
 Resources 15.5p - 1p  
 Boulton 7.75p - 0.5p

## TODAY

Primes Brunner Investment  
 st. Swedish Match Co (4th  
 tier report)  
 ARIEL Industries, Chlor-  
 Group, ERF Holdings,  
 don and Overseas Freight,  
 Moorgate Mercantile Hold-  
 ing, Property Partnerships,  
 as Woodhead and Sons  
 economic statistics: Retail  
 s index (May), Tax and  
 s index (May)

## NOTEBOOK

rush for the new tapetook  
 the City wonders how much  
 Government will need to  
 e.  
 fits are likely to hold up well  
 English China Clays.  
 news gives a hidden prom-  
 ision gives investors an  
 opportunity as new-look Slave-  
 emerges.

## Second Sotheby's referred

he proposed takeover bid  
 Sotheby's by Mr Alfred  
 shman, an American prop-  
 ertarian, has been  
 referred to the Monopolies  
 mission.  
 he rival \$61m offer from  
 all International Holdings,  
 led by Mr Marshall Cogan  
 Mr Stephen Swid has  
 been referred. Mr Cecil  
 kinson, Secretary of State for  
 de and Industry, has decided  
 investigation into whether  
 er would be against "the  
 lic interest is to be consid-  
 er simultaneously.  
 otheby's has rejected the  
 offer preferring to be  
 led by Mr Taubman, who  
 id start the bidding at about  
 p a share, if allowed to  
 eed. Sotheby's shares last  
 closed 100p up at 605p.

**CELLTECH SALE:** Bio-  
 ology Investments, the  
 n fund sponsored by the  
 chant bank N M Roth-  
 id, is paying Technical  
 clopment Capital and Brit-  
 Technology Group nearly  
 for a 14 per cent stake in  
 tech, Britain's leading  
 alist biotechnology com-  
 pany.  
 It will be the first  
 stment by the Rothschild  
 in an unquoted British  
 any.

**SSUE OVERSUB-**  
**IBED:** Malaysia's \$50m  
 ng bond issue has been  
 subscribed. Applications  
 bout \$66m were received  
 the five-year loan stock.  
 Applications up to  
 000 will be allowed in full  
 applications above that will  
 1.5 per cent. The stock was  
 i to give an issue yield of  
 per cent.

## WALL STREET

## Trading volume well up

New York (AD-DJ) - Stocks  
 held their strong gain in  
 extremely heavy trading yester-  
 day.

The Dow Jones industrial  
 average rose about seven points  
 to 1,244 and the transportation  
 index was up seven points at  
 580.

More than 1,005 issues  
 showed gains, compared with  
 465 declines, and volume ran  
 far ahead of Wednesday's pace.  
 Mr James M. Meyer, vice-  
 president at Janney Mont-  
 gomery-Scott in Philadelphia,  
 said the market had grown  
 euphoric again "despite the  
 Texas Instruments news and the  
 problems with the WPPSS  
 bonds... the Washington Public  
 Power Supply System issues.  
 Earnings keep going up and  
 unless interest rates spurt  
 there's no reason for the stock  
 market to go down."

Mr Meyer also noted "some  
 encouraging statements from the  
 Fed."  
 Eastman Kodak is down 2 1/2  
 at 70 1/2. Carson Pirie Scott up 1  
 to 41 1/2. General Electric up 1/2  
 at 57 1/2. General Motors up 3/4  
 at 17 1/2. American Express up 1/2  
 to 73 1/2. International Business  
 Machines up 1 1/2 to 122 1/2.  
 Sanders Associates down 1 at  
 107. Texas Instruments up 2 1/2  
 to 117 1/2. Syntex off 1/2 at 53 1/2.  
 NCR up 1 at 125 1/2. and  
 Motorola up 1/2 to 133.

## New EEC 'peace at work' plan

From Ian Murray

A new set of proposals meant  
 to make employers and  
 employees throughout the EEC  
 work more closely together was  
 unveiled yesterday by Mr Ivor  
 Richard, the commissioner  
 responsible for social affairs.  
 They would cover about half  
 the workforce in the Commu-  
 nity.

Essentially the new proposals  
 would require every company  
 in the EEC with at least a  
 thousand people on the payroll  
 to present the workforce on a  
 year with a comprehensive  
 picture of the activities of the  
 entire group to which the  
 company belongs.  
 Any decision which could  
 result in closures, mergers, job  
 losses or changes in working  
 conditions would have to be  
 referred to the workforce at  
 least 30 days before it was due  
 to be implemented.

Although management might  
 withhold information on the  
 ground that its disclosure could  
 substantially damage the com-  
 pany, there could be an appeal  
 to the courts if there were to be  
 any dispute over just what  
 constituted "a secret".  
 In Mr Richard's view these  
 proposals are a modest, centrist  
 approach to the problem and  
 should help pave the way to a  
 better relationship between the  
 two sides of the shop floor.  
 Only by making the regulations  
 Community-wide would it be  
 possible to prevent multi-  
 national companies taking  
 advantage of loopholes in  
 national legislation to avoid  
 keeping their workers informed.

The proposals are a watered-  
 down second attempt by the  
 Commission to create a set of  
 rules which would force all  
 larger companies operating  
 inside the Community to  
 inform the Community of their  
 workforce about all aspects of  
 the business which affect em-  
 ployment.  
 They could quickly become a  
 serious issue. Kenneth  
 Norrman, Tebbit, the Secretary  
 of State for Employment, and  
 the TUC. The Commission's  
 original proposal on the sub-  
 ject met massive opposition  
 from industry. Britain is likely  
 to lead the attack on the ideas  
 when they are put to the  
 Council of Ministers and  
 experts within the Commission  
 doubt whether there can be any  
 further progress while Mrs  
 Margaret Thatcher remains in  
 government.

Last year, Mr David Wad-  
 dington, then junior Employ-  
 ment Minister, told the Com-  
 mission that the Government was  
 "more than sceptical and not  
 ashamed of saying it was more  
 than sceptical" about the  
 proposals.

The appointment of Mr  
 Robert Haslam as part-time  
 chairman of the British Steel  
 Corporation is the result of  
 three months' hard work by the  
 Department of Industry scour-  
 ing the ranks of Britain's senior,  
 talented managers. Finding a  
 replacement for Mr Ian Mac-  
 Gregor has proved to be one of  
 the most difficult public recruit-  
 ment tasks of recent years.  
 Departmental officials have  
 been sworn to secrecy in the last  
 few weeks as Mr Haslam's  
 £55,000-a-year contract was  
 negotiated, with ministers fear-  
 ing a repetition of the debacle of  
 their first choice for the steel  
 job, Sir Alistair Frame, chief  
 executive of Rio Tinto-Zinc. He  
 turned it down when his name  
 was leaked.

## Exchange rates and economic policy on Paris agenda

## Group of Five deputy finance ministers to meet next month

By Our Financial Staff

Deputy finance ministers of  
 the US, West Germany, France,  
 Britain and Japan will meet in  
 Paris on July 7 to 8 to discuss  
 currency exchange rates and  
 economic policy issues.

The US Treasury refused to  
 confirm or deny that this  
 meeting would be held, but  
 informed sources said yesterday  
 that arrangements have been  
 completed for this first follow-  
 up to the economic summit  
 conference of government lead-  
 ers held in Williamsburg last  
 month.

In the United Kingdom, a  
 Treasury spokesman was un-  
 able to confirm this meeting of  
 the Group of Five.  
 However, a series of top-level  
 meetings are planned to the  
 run-up to the next International  
 Monetary Fund-World Bank  
 meeting in September, to allow  
 leading industrial countries to  
 hammer out their positions.

The question of IMF resour-  
 ces and whether the fund should  
 be allowed to borrow on the

capital markets is likely to be  
 high on the agenda. It was  
 suggested yesterday this issue  
 would have to be decided soon.  
 In London it was being  
 stressed yesterday that any  
 meetings over the summer were  
 likely to be geared more  
 towards preparing ground for  
 the autumn IMF/World Bank  
 meeting, rather than intended

as a follow-up to the Williams-  
 burg summit.  
 At Williamsburg, President  
 Reagan and other government  
 leaders agreed to "pursue closer  
 consultation on policies affect-  
 ing exchange rates and on  
 monetary conditions."

The meeting in Paris next  
 month to be attended by Dr  
 Beryl Sprinkel, US Treasury

Undersecretary and deputy  
 finance ministers of other  
 countries, is also expected to lay  
 the groundwork for meetings of  
 finance ministers of the "big  
 five" nations this summer on  
 what needs to be done to  
 improve the international  
 monetary system.

US officials said earlier that  
 the five finance ministers would

## US halves current deficit to \$3bn

Washington, (AP) - The US  
 had a \$3.05bn (\$1.98bn) deficit, seasonally  
 adjusted, in its balance of  
 payments on current account in  
 the first quarter, the Commerce  
 Department said.

This compared with a deficit  
 of \$6.62bn in the fourth quarter  
 of 1982 and a surplus of \$564m  
 in the first quarter of last year.

According to revised statis-  
 tics, the total deficit for last

year was \$11.21bn, economists  
 expect a wider deficit this year.

The latest figures show that  
 US merchandise exports, ex-  
 cluding military goods, totalled  
 a seasonally adjusted \$49.56bn  
 in the first quarter, compared  
 with an adjusted \$48.34bn in the  
 fourth quarter.

Imports totalled an adjusted  
 \$58.3bn in the first quarter  
 compared with \$59.7bn in the  
 fourth quarter.

That produced a deficit on

merchandise trade of an ad-  
 justed \$8.74bn in this year's  
 first quarter compared with a  
 deficit of an adjusted \$11.35bn  
 in last year's final quarter.

Net service receipts rose to an  
 adjusted \$7.26bn in the first  
 quarter from an adjusted \$7.1bn  
 in the fourth quarter last year.

US government payments  
 abroad totalled an adjusted  
 \$1.56bn in the first quarter,  
 down from an adjusted \$2.43bn  
 in the fourth quarter of 1982.

met in Washington in late  
 September.

There also have been reports  
 in the past few days about the  
 possibility of a meeting of  
 finance ministers from the  
 leading nations in Europe in  
 late July.

But European sources said  
 they would prefer to delay the  
 finance ministers' talks until  
 late September in Washington.

● France will soon have to  
 seek assistance from the Inter-  
 national Monetary Fund, ac-  
 cording to M Michel Jobert,  
 former external trade minister.

"In view of what's happened  
 to our economy, we will shortly  
 have to knock on the IMF's  
 door," he said in a radio  
 interview.

M Jobert resigned from the  
 government of M Pierre Mau-  
 roy last March when the franc  
 was devalued within the Euro-  
 pean Monetary System. At the  
 time, he claimed he had not  
 been given the power to deal  
 with France's large trade gap.

## City Comment

## Banking on technical change

Barclays' plans to restruc-  
 ture its domestic branch  
 network by taking corpo-  
 rate business out of some  
 smaller branches into re-  
 gional centres are only a  
 part of the wider changes  
 in domestic banking. They  
 will be unveiled in detail,  
 to staff and unions this  
 month.

All the banks have been  
 looking at ways of tackling  
 the high and rising cost of  
 running extensive branch  
 networks.

Growing competition for  
 consumer deposits, which  
 has eaten into the clearing  
 banks' non-interest bear-  
 ing current accounts, has  
 lent added urgency to the  
 search for a solution.  
 Meanwhile technology is  
 opening the way for im-  
 portant changes in the way  
 the banks operate.

Significantly, Standard  
 Chartered, which failed in  
 its attempt to acquire a UK  
 branch network and large  
 sterling deposit base by  
 taking over Royal Bank of  
 Scotland, now seems  
 rather relieved that it was  
 prevented by the Mon-  
 opolies and Mergers  
 Commission.

It still wants the sterling  
 deposit base, but it seems  
 to have had second  
 thoughts on the merits of  
 the branch network and is  
 examining ways of achiev-  
 ing the former target  
 through other means.

For the other banks,  
 such as Barclays, already  
 burdened with large net-  
 works, the challenge is  
 different. Barclays at least  
 has the experience of  
 Midland to draw on.

Midland has gone a long  
 way towards dividing the  
 market between personal  
 and corporate customers  
 but now realises that the  
 strategy is only worthwhile  
 in the larger concentrations.

Doubtless Barclays,  
 which has already been  
 experimenting, will take a  
 more cautious approach on  
 both how far and how  
 quickly it develops this  
 strategy.

## Ocean sells Straits stake for £88m

By Jonathan Clark

Ocean Transport & Trading  
 has sold its 58 per cent stake in  
 the Singapore-based Straits  
 Steamship Company to the  
 Singapore Government-owned  
 Keppel Shipyard for £88.4m.

The deal, but not the identity  
 of the buyer, had been widely  
 rumoured on the stock market  
 which had pushed Ocean's  
 share price up to about 125p  
 over the last three weeks.

Mr William Menzies-Wilson,  
 Ocean's chairman, said he  
 decided to sell because the price  
 was attractive and Mr Lee Kuan  
 Yew the Singapore Prime  
 Minister had given a warning  
 that the economy would slow  
 down over the next two or three  
 years.

A p/e (price/earnings ratio) of  
 26 seemed to me to be not a bad  
 price. The yield on the invest-  
 ment is only 2 per cent," he  
 said. "Singapore is a super base  
 but there comes a time when it  
 has to be a very super base to  
 stay there."

Profits at Straits have already  
 started to slow down. Its  
 shipping interests are compara-  
 tively small, with the bulk of its  
 business in engineering, of-  
 fshore supply and property.

Keppel is 75 per cent  
 controlled by the state with the  
 balance in private hands. The  
 outstanding 42 per cent in  
 Straits is spread among diverse  
 shareholders.

Ocean intends to use some of  
 the cash to reduce its borrow-  
 ing of £190m but has not yet  
 decided by how much. "It is a  
 question of striking a sensible  
 debt equity ratio," Mr Menzies-  
 Wilson said.

The balance of the cash will  
 be used to expand Ocean. It  
 wants to build up its non-mar-  
 ine interests. Areas it will  
 examine include waste manage-  
 ment and its harbour business-  
 es. "All our businesses are good.  
 We won't put a lot into shipping  
 because we have a young fleet,"  
 Mr Menzies-Wilson said.

Ocean talked to "one or two"  
 other potential buyers and  
 there was no question of it  
 having to sell out to local  
 interests. Straits operates  
 throughout SE Asia, Malaysia  
 and Indonesia.

## Investment groups plan full listing

By Our Financial Staff

Two investment companies  
 said yesterday they intend to  
 sell their shares to the public in  
 a full stock market listing within  
 the next four weeks.

Henderson Administration  
 manages six investment trusts,  
 30 authorized unit trusts, four  
 offshore funds and 30 pension  
 funds. With private individuals'  
 cash funds under management  
 total just over £1bn.

It is believed to be the first  
 time since the 1930s that a unit  
 trust management company like  
 Henderson has sought a full  
 quotation. It is expected to be  
 valued by the market at £32m.

The group is 82 per cent  
 owned by four investment  
 trusts for which it manages  
 money: Witan Investment  
 Company, Electric and General  
 Investment Company, Green-  
 fair Investment and Lowland.

Baring Brothers, the mer-  
 chant bank, will bring it to  
 market with stockbrokers Caze-  
 nove.

Meanwhile, Taddale Invest-  
 ments, a £20m investment  
 holding company run by Mr  
 Michael Carlton, plans a full  
 listing next month.

## Montagu launches first floating rate fund

By Lorna Bourke

Samuel Montagu, the mer-  
 chant bankers, have launched  
 an offshore floating rate note  
 fund. They are the first bankers  
 to do so.

Based in Jersey and denomi-  
 nated in US dollars, the fund  
 aims to attract both private  
 investors' money and corporate  
 funds with its relatively low  
 minimum investment of  
 \$10,000.

The initial charge of 5 per  
 cent, negotiable for larger sums,  
 will deter many private in-  
 vestors through treasurers and  
 finance directors of smaller  
 companies may find it an  
 attractive investment vehicle.

The fund will invest in  
 floating rates of only first class  
 issuers, top banks and sovereign  
 risks, with an average maturity  
 of about five years.

It will be actively traded and  
 should, the managers say,  
 enable risks to be spread to a  
 greater extent than would be  
 possible for a single investor.

The surprise is that no other  
 bank has packaged these some-  
 what complicated securities in  
 the more marketable form of a  
 fund.

The floating rate note market  
 was born in the early 1970s, but  
 took off with inflation in 1975  
 and is now a \$30,000m market.

Eurodollar floating rate notes  
 are negotiable securities on  
 which the rate of interest is  
 fixed by reference to prevailing  
 Eurodollar interest rates.



Pitching in: Mr Alexiou with the Spurs prospectus at White Hart Lane yesterday. (Photograph: Chris Harris).

## Spurs head for £1.15m rights issue

By Michael Clark

Tottenham Hotspur Football  
 Club yesterday took the first  
 step towards reducing the  
 growing debts which have  
 threatened to cripple it.

The group is hoping to raise  
 £1.15m with a rights issue of  
 extra shares ahead of full public  
 quotation on the stock market  
 in the autumn.

The terms include the issue  
 of an extra 49,000 new £1 shares  
 at £25 a share on the basis of  
 one new share for every 10 held.

At present the group has  
 8,000 shares quoted on the  
 stock market under lot 163 (2).  
 They last traded at £210,  
 valuing the group at £1.7m.

Mr Paul Bobroff, a Spurs  
 director, has underwritten the  
 rights issue with Mr Ian

Scholar, a club shareholder who  
 owns 36 per cent of the existing  
 shares.

The North London club's  
 debts totalled £4.3m after  
 completion last year of a new  
 £7,700 stand.

It hopes to wipe out the  
 remaining £3m of debt by  
 forming a new holding com-  
 pany with a full stock market  
 listing.

Giving details at the club's  
 White Hart Lane ground, Mr  
 Douglas Alexiou, newly ap-  
 pointed chairman and son-in-  
 law of Mr Sidney White, former  
 club chairman, said the main  
 aim of the directors was to  
 eliminate the club's dependence  
 on borrowings.

He said: "The present finan-

cial structure of the club is  
 Victorian, preventing us from  
 paying any more than £500 in  
 dividends in any one year. The  
 only base for a football club is  
 to have a sound financial  
 footing."

Mr Alexiou's plan is also to  
 transform the club into a  
 broadly based leisure group,  
 and enabling supporters to take  
 an active role in its future.

He added: "The sums of  
 money now required to main-  
 tain a club in the top ranks are  
 such that the traditional  
 methods of finance, such as  
 private equity placing and bank  
 loans, are no longer adequate."

At present the members of  
 the Spurs board own more than  
 60 per cent of the issued capital.

## Recovery at Air UK lifts B&amp;C

By Our Financial Staff

British & Commonwealth  
 Shipping has seen a substantial  
 improvement in its profits by  
 the turnaround of Air UK from  
 heavy losses to a small profit.

B & C made £36.8m last year.  
 The aviation business, which  
 includes the Bristol helicopter  
 interests, turned in a profit of  
 £21.6m, compared with £9.2m  
 in the previous year when Air  
 UK made a loss of about £6m.

But the depressed shipping  
 market left that division with a  
 substantial turnaround from a  
 profit of £359,000 to a loss of  
 £2.6m. Ship disposals - includ-  
 ing two refrigerated ships -  
 should contain shipping losses  
 this year.

However, there is a £7m  
 provision against the delivery  
 cost of a panamax bulk carrier  
 delivered last month. The  
 company was committed to  
 buying the ship despite the  
 downturn in the market.

Air UK remains vulnerable  
 to changes in Government  
 legislation on short haul air-  
 lines.

## Analysts divided as M3 growth slows

By Frances Williams

Economics Correspondent

Details of last month's  
 monetary growth published  
 yesterday give ammunition to  
 both sides in the City's war of  
 words over the likely course of  
 government policy.

The Bank of England con-  
 firmed that sterling M3, the  
 most closely watched measure  
 of money supply, rose by 0.2  
 per cent in the four weeks to  
 mid-May, after a surge of 1.9  
 per cent in April. But this still  
 leaves growth since the present  
 target period began in February  
 at an annualised 15.7 per cent,  
 compared with the target upper  
 limit of 11 per cent.

Bank officials point out that  
 much of the overshoot results  
 from the exceptional April  
 figures which came after the  
 end-of-year spending spree by  
 government departments. If M3  
 continued to rise at 0.8 per cent  
 a month it would come back  
 within target, they say.

But a number of City analysts  
 are convinced that the Govern-  
 ment will have no option but to  
 tighten money or fiscal policy to  
 get back on course.



BASE RATE  
CHANGEBANK OF  
BARODA

Bank of Baroda announce that, for balances in their books on and after 17th June, 1983 and until further notice their Base Rate for lending is 9½% per annum. The Deposit Rate on all monies subject to seven days' notice of withdrawal is 6% per annum.

THE DREYFUS INTERCONTINENTAL  
INVESTMENT FUND N.V.

## DECLARATION OF DIVIDEND

At the Annual General Meeting of The Dreyfus Intercontinental Investment Fund N.V., held in Curaçao on May 31, 1983, the Shareholders of the Fund, acting upon the recommendation of the Fund's Board of Directors, declared a dividend of \$0.12 (U.S.) per share to Shareholders of record on June 17, 1983. This dividend is payable on June 21, 1983 to holders of bearer shares upon surrender of Dividend Coupon No. 13 as attached to the share certificate, to one of the offices of the paying banks listed below. This distribution is being made from net investment income.

Morgan Grenfell & Co. Limited  
23 Great Winchester Street  
London EC2P 2AX  
England

Deutsche Bank AG  
Grosse Gallusstr. 10-14  
6 Frankfurt/Main 1  
West Germany

Banque Internationale à  
Luxembourg  
2, Boulevard Royal  
Luxembourg-Ville  
Luxembourg 2205

RoyWest Trust Corporation  
(Bahamas) Limited  
Mutual Funds Department  
P.O. Box N7788  
Nassau, Bahamas Islands

Dividends payable on shares held in a Dreyfus Intercontinental Voluntary Account will either be paid directly to the Account holder or automatically reinvested, depending upon the election made by the Account holder when his Account was established.

Reports are available at the offices of the above-mentioned paying banks or at

Dreyfus GmbH,  
Maximilianstr. 24, 8 Munich 22, West Germany.



## Gold Fields Group

VOGELSTRUISBULT METAL HOLDINGS LIMITED  
(Incorporated in the Republic of South Africa)  
("VOGELS")

ACQUISITION OF SHARES IN  
O'KIEP COPPER COMPANY LIMITED ("O'KIEP")

Vogels announces that subject to the approval of members in general meeting, it has agreed to acquire 640,000 shares, representing a 20% equity interest, in O'Kiep for R8.85 million, or R14 per share.

O'Kiep operates a number of copper mines and a copper smelter centred on Matsieng in Namaland. O'Kiep shares, in American Depositary Receipt form, are listed on the American Stock Exchange. The last available quotation was U.S.\$17 per share.

A notice of a general meeting, to be convened for the purpose of approving this acquisition, will be sent to members of Vogels on or about 21 July 1983. The notice will be accompanied by a circular giving details of a proposed rights offer of shares in Vogels to finance the purchase price of the O'Kiep shares to be acquired, together with an analysis of the effect of the acquisition on earnings and net worth.

17 June 1983

Garnar  
Booth Plc  
Tanners & Leather Manufacturers

	1983 £000's	1982 £000's
Turnover	59,357	45,283
Trading Profit	3,704	2,715
Profit before tax	1,116	811
Profit after tax and extraordinary items	796	923
Dividends	471	454
Net Assets	12,103	11,406

Highlights from the Statement by the Chairman, Sir Kenneth Newton B. OBE, TD, for the year ended 31st January 1983.

- \* Results for the year demonstrate the underlying strength of the group and the progress it continues to make.
- \* Final dividend of 4.25p per share recommended, making a total of 6.65p (6.40p last year).
- \* Significant improvement in second half trading.
- \* Group has benefited from less rapidly rising costs, lower interest rates and strict internal financial controls.
- \* Export sales increased to £19.3m and were helped by reduction in sterling's exchange value.
- \* All factories in the Group extremely active and satisfactory trading throughout 1983 anticipated.

Garnar Booth Plc — Grange House,  
84/86 Borough High Street, London SE1 1LN

## Caution is cutting into gilts

A week ago it seemed a reasonable proposition that a sweeping Conservative victory at the polls could only do the gilts good. But, perversely, the market has lost all the gains it made last Friday. As top stock buyers disappeared.

Recent events notwithstanding, actual and potential holders of gilts are confident that a government which stays committed to the Medium Term Financial Strategy is bullish for the market in the long run. But there are bound to be bumps along the way, and one such is looming now. It is no secret that the Government's funding requirement is running ahead of budget forecasts and that the money supply is rising faster than the authorities would like.

On the assumption that it wants to bring these figures at least within respectable distance of the MTFs ranges, some fairly heavy gilt sales can be expected between now and autumn. Some estimates run to £3,000m.

Coupled with a sizable volume of new paper will be an acceleration of inflation and uncertainty about currency and interest rate movements. One view is that the Federal Reserve will succeed in edging United States interest rates down and that the possible pressure on sterling will be relieved.

The market's understandable fear, however, is that the Fed will enjoy only limited success. In addition, the feeling is growing in London that independently of what happens in America the scope for lowering British interest rates this year is small. As a consequence, the gilt market is caught between general long-run optimism and shorter term vacillation.

The upshot is that issues over the next few months must be attractive.

It may be that the authorities will need to spice issues with

John Beckett (right), chairman of Woolworth Holdings, told shareholders at the annual meeting yesterday he hoped to be able to report "a useful increase in profits at the trading level", this year. Volume was up on a year ago, the economic background was changing, and early indications were that the group was retaining its share of increased high street consumer spending. "Impatient though I am, I am moderately encouraged", he said. Much remained to be done about the cost structure.

gimmicks — even warrants have been suggested — like the ever ingenious Eurobond market. Yesterday's further losses of about 1/8 show how the market is erring on the side of caution.

## EMAP

East Midland Allied Press  
Year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profit £3.6m (£3.5m)  
Stated earnings 9.3p (11.0p)  
Turnover £54.2m (£46.0m)  
Net total dividend 4.0p (3.6p)  
Share price 140p, up 3p. Yield 3.9%  
One for one scrip issue proposed

As ever the bulk of East Midland Allied Press's profits come from its special interest magazines but the local newspapers have made a surprisingly strong recovery from the recession. Profits in the division rose from £700,000 to £846,000.

The improvement has been achieved at some cost — redundancies taken above the line totalled £200,000 with more to come this year.

But investment of about £5m in a new press in Peterborough, which prints all but one of the newspapers, will progressively increase profits as the contract workload is built up.



upheaval since postwar nationalization. Low gearing and a 7 per cent yield should tempt investors in to find out what will happen now.

English China  
Clays

English China Clays  
Half year to 31.3.83  
Pre-tax profit £17.32m (£19.39m)  
Stated earnings 7.23p (8.89p)  
Turnover £230.8m (£190.05m)  
Net interim dividend 3.25p (3p)  
Share price 208p down 7p

The share price of English China Clays has hardly moved in four months. Half-year figures out yesterday explain why. Pre-tax profits are down by just over 10 per cent to £17.32m, despite a 21 per cent rise in sales to £230.8m.

The shares had a sharp upward re-rating after full-year figures in January, but the latest figures disappointed the market and the shares fell 7p to 206p.

The contribution from traditional clay activities was more than £2m lower at £11.5m with the paper industry, the company's main market, in the doldrums. World clay volume was down 10 per cent and it was hard to increase prices.

The seasonal bias in profits towards the second half of the year will be more pronounced this time as a result of the group's £13m acquisition in April last year of leisure parks from Guinness. The acquisition boosted first-half losses from leisure from £1.2m to nearly £3m.

But this will be reversed in the second half to give a profit of perhaps £3m against £2m last time for the year as a whole.

Overall the group should be able to match last year's £43.5m in the 12 months to next September.

## Staveley

Staveley's results were at the bottom of the expected range, sending its shares down nearly 20p at one stage. But they recovered a little as stockbrokers realized this stemmed from confusion over the group's many comings and goings during the year, principally the sale of Peakstone aggregates, balancing purchase of the minority in British Salt and closures and run-downs in machine tools replaced by acquisitions in new service and high technology fields.

Salt remains the mainstay and there are still loss-makers in North America but the new look is more promising.

The group has had its biggest

## Duple backs £4.3m share bid

By Philip Robinson



Mr David Hargreaves

After talks with Mr David Hargreaves, the chairman of Hestair, Mr Hay said the board had resolved to recommend the offer to shareholders.

With Hestair's share price down 2p at 61p last night values the offer for Duple shares at 57.5p. The shares have traded between 18p and 46p this year.

As part of a comprehensive reorganization of production methods new model ranges extensive work has been done on the development of coaches in which body and chassis are integrated. This paved the way, said Mr Hay, for the transition from bodybuilding to vehicle manufacturing.

Hestair ranks third in Britain behind Leyland and Metro Cammell, a subsidiary of Laird, as a chassis manufacturer, but unlike them has no capacity to make complete vehicles.

Mr Hay forecast that losses for the year to the end of August this year would be £1.4m, although this was not much higher than the previous year, the forecast interest charges is almost doubled.

Mr Hay said that the board was unable to predict any

significant improvement in trading in the short term. In the best interests of shareholders and the business, he said, it should be merged into a larger group which was at present trading profitably and had a strong balance sheet.

## COMMODITIES

LONDON METAL EXCHANGE  
Official figures  
Copper turnover figures  
Silver in ounce per ton  
Tin in ounce per ton  
Zinc in ounce per ton  
Lead in ounce per ton  
Nickel in ounce per ton  
Cadmium in ounce per ton  
Antimony in ounce per ton  
Bismuth in ounce per ton  
Manganese in ounce per ton  
Vanadium in ounce per ton  
Chromium in ounce per ton  
Molybdenum in ounce per ton  
Cobalt in ounce per ton  
Niobium in ounce per ton  
Tungsten in ounce per ton  
Rhenium in ounce per ton  
Iridium in ounce per ton  
Rhodium in ounce per ton  
Palladium in ounce per ton  
Platinum in ounce per ton  
Gold in ounce per ton

COMMODITY PRICES  
Official figures  
Copper turnover figures  
Silver in ounce per ton  
Tin in ounce per ton  
Zinc in ounce per ton  
Lead in ounce per ton  
Nickel in ounce per ton  
Cadmium in ounce per ton  
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## APPOINTMENTS

## Chairman named at Britvic

Mr Michael Jackman has become chairman of Britvic after the retirement of Mr George Imman. Mr Jackman, who is chairman of Showers, Vine Products & Whitways, is also a director of Allied-Lyons and many other subsidiary companies. Mr Eric Colwell has been appointed deputy chairman of Britvic. He is managing director of Victoria Wine Company and a director of Allied-Lyons.

Sir Sidney Eborse joins the board of Peachey Property Corporation as a non-executive director from July 1.

Mr Brian Sweetland, solicitor and manager of the legal department, is also to take over as secretary of Friends' Provident Life Office.

Mr David Morgan, currently marketing director, becomes managing director of Avon Tin Printers, Bristol.

Mr Flinn McIlennan has been appointed managing director of Elopak, Stevenage.

Mr Gordon McLellan is the new managing director of Mardon Composites - Whitehaven. He succeeds Mr John Adams who has retired.

Mr Trevor Heavys, has been appointed managing director of Westminster Bank's Finance branch. He succeeds Mr R. P. M. Phillips who shortly finishes his tour of duty.

Mr Paul Crowe, deputy managing director of Odhams Printers, has been elected a BPCC main board director and appointed managing director of the BPCC wholly-owned subsidiary, the British Newspaper Printing Corporation.

Mr Michael Neokes, has become managing director of Cimex.

Mr L. R. Fortune, a main board director, has been appointed managing director of BCL (British Cellophane) in charge of their converter companies in Europe and Nigeria. He also has development responsibilities for the Middle East, Northern Africa and North America.

Mr Tom Ebbert, previously assistant general manager, has been appointed managing director of Comex Houder Diving, Aberdeen, succeeding Mr Gilles Bellamy who is taking up new responsibilities in the Comex Group.

A corporate rethink could revive one of British industry's proudest names

## Change due at stricken John Brown

There was a certain inevitability about the current problems and the embarrassingly forced restructuring of John Brown. Many of the great prewar names of British industry have either gone bust, such as BSA and Stone-Platt, or been forced to take drastic decisions to survive like Turner & Newall and hopefully prosper like Vickers. This greatest of names from the era of Britain's industrial might was a candidate for anyone's list of proud traditional companies vulnerable to the slump, the new harsh industrial realism, the upsets created by high interest rates and the huge unpredictable swings in currencies.

John Brown has traditionally prospered on exports, of machinery, turbines and plant contracting. More recently, it has been heavily dependent on the US in a widely fluctuating dollar currency. And like many of the proud names in British engineering, its businesses - from North Sea plant to textile machinery - depend on world-wide industrial investment that has proved the greatest victim of the slump.

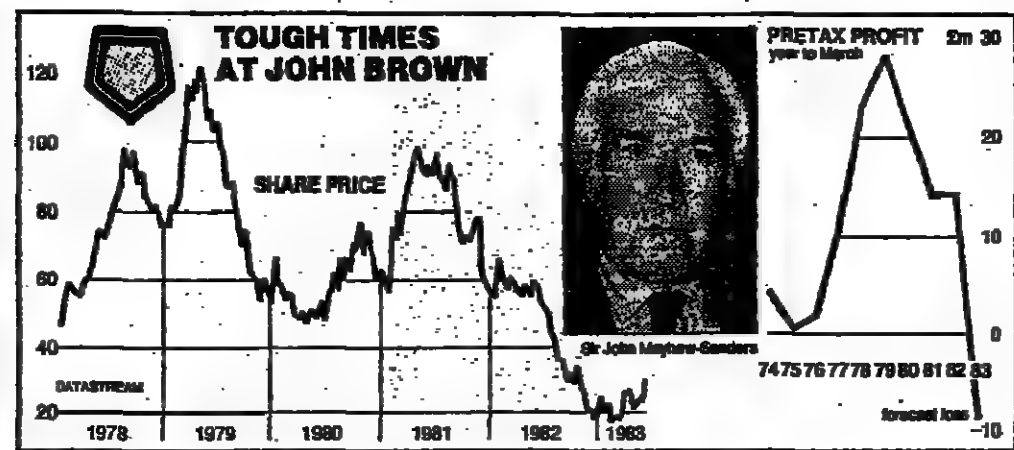
After years of fluctuating fortunes, John Brown reached rock bottom when it announced pretax losses of £29m and write-offs of £17m for the half-year to last September and forecast that the full year to March would produce a similar loss to set against last year's £14m profit. This undid the group's balance sheet, its traditional strength.

Suddenly, debt more than matched the group's net worth, shown as £114m in its latest 1981-82 accounts. That is a warning to any company, particularly one that has raised £40m from the City in new shares in the past five years and antagonized both its big shareholders and stockbrokers within the square mile.

Now it is negotiating to sell Hawker Siddeley a majority stake in John Brown Engineering, the gas turbine division centred on its old Clydebank shipyard and one of its two best businesses, to shore itself up.

The man at the centre of these negotiations is Sir John Mayhew-Sanders, John Brown's dominating chairman and chief executive.

Sir John will resolve the immediate debt problems of this shrinking pillar of British Engineering if he successfully



negotiated a sale of the turbine division, JBE made £1.8m profit on £94m sales in 1981-82 but has suffered amid the time-consuming political wrangling over its contracts on the Siberian gas pipeline. Hawker wants to maintain a John Brown connection because of the goodwill earned in the Eastern block.

Even the sale of a substantial majority could net John Brown £30m or more, against its £40m stock market value.

But it is already clear that, if the group remains independent at all, the consequences of recent failures will reverberate round the boardroom. A company that has already changed its shape several times over a proud 150-year history will face another through going rethink about its future.

The original John Brown started, making Springs in Sheffield, moved into steel and the forefront of railway and shipbuilding development. After buying the Clydebank shipyard in 1899, it made itself the top name in passenger liners right down to the QE2 and the era of shipyard mergers that ended in nationalisation. Most of its history was dominated by the family of Lord Aberconway, whose father and grandfather preceded his own 76-year occupancy of the chair until 1978.

Mayhew-Sanders is an accountant by family tradition, engineer by education and was a management consultant before joining John Brown, becoming chief executive eight years ago. He inherited a London-run business centred on the unusually successful Wickman machine tool companies, old-style general engineering, the turbine business and an erratic

but highly regarded international plant contracting group that accounts for more than a third of turnover and usually the lion's share of profit.

The new chairman set about a further round of diversification and expansion, particularly by buying companies in the US. It is hard to tell whether John Brown would have been better or worse off without this. The original machinery business lost about £4m in 1981-82 and accounts for many of the write-offs of the past three years. But Mayhew-Sanders' initiatives have produced new problems.

He bought Crawford & Russell, a complementary process engineer for £25m, Leeson, machinery maker to the textile industry for \$80m, and

**"There is likely to be a more down-to-earth approach, with more management changes, more emphasis on profitability and financial strength than size"**

in 1981, most controversially, paid a hefty \$44m for the Olofsson Corporation, another machinery maker.

In the event these acquisitions, however strategic, proved ill-timed in advance of the investment slump and the erratic movements of the dollar. They simply added to John Brown's financial problems

while adding little to its short-term trading strengths.

But Mayhew-Sanders' unpopularity in the City has more parochial causes. In the autumn of 1981, John Brown raised £24m by a rights issue that, due to the vagaries of the stock market, was left with underwriters.

Just two months later, rights issue optimism was transformed by a "dramatic further worsening" in machinery, producing an internal stock market rumour over dealings (John Brown was acquired) and lasting animosity in the City. This was compounded when talk of much lower profits last July ended up in the dramatic losses announced in January.

This is attached as much to Sir John Mayhew-Sanders himself as to any objective facts, because he has conducted, as City men say, an "aggressive and belligerent" defence of himself and his company when the money men thought penitence was more in order.

The result has been that analysts have turned their most critical spotlight on John Brown and its future. Apart from the process contracting and turbine sides, "the rest is a nightmare" says one widely followed engineering specialist. "I would like to see John Brown off my list, taken over and broken up."

Behind the scenes, more cautious City institutions have taken a subtler approach to what they see as long-term management problems - not a condemnation of Sir John, so much as modern dislike of a board where a single all-powerful executive presided over a group of often aging outsiders.

Sir John Cuckney, saviour of many a lost cause, was brought

in as a vigorous non-executive director and now deputy chairman. Two executive directors, from process contracting and the US, joined the main board last August.

They are likely to take a more balanced view of the future. After all, under Sir John Mayhew-Sanders' leadership, profits rose from less than £1m in 1974-75 to about £20m in 1977-80 before the slump.

But now there is likely to be a much more down-to-earth approach, with more management changes, more emphasis on profitability and financial strength than size and the final burying of any grandiose pretensions associated with the name John Brown the name Sir John Cuckney could well take a strong role.

The turbine division, though a jewel in the crown, may have proved too much for a company of this size in the long-run. John Brown in now a small outfit in a big league.

Unless a bidder for the whole group emerges to assets outpace the share price but there are problems to match John Brown will have to sort out its own machinery and general engineering sections and bank on an improvement in oil business and plant construction.

But long term it looks logical to concentrate its resources on the exciting if vulnerable international process contracting and construction business, a big enough challenge for its undoubted skills as well as its resources. It has promising ventures in process plant for biotechnology.

The road to prosperity could be long and painful. So could the choice to adopt a new more restricted role. That might not be to the chairman's liking and is therefore no foregone conclusion.

It is no accident that those close to the company point to Sir John Mayhew-Sanders' non-executive role as Dowry and that company's impending need for a new leader. Sir John is still only 51. At the moment, much is in the balance.

Meanwhile, there are some signs that orders are picking up, even in machine tools, and trading could improve sharply. Given a deal with Hawker Siddeley on turbines, the share price could pick up too.

Graham Searjeant

## Economic notes

## Putting the brakes on money supply

The Last Conservative Government came to office determined to control the money supply, but completed its term with monetary aggregates growing well above target. That failure had much to do with too simple-minded an interpretation of monetarism.

Minister's principal mistake was to believe that by cutting the public sector borrowing requirements (PSBR) - the Budget deficits and raising interest rates, the money supply could be controlled. This approach did not work because loan demand became progressively less sensitive to changes in interest rates while reducing the PSBR probably raised bank lending.

The marked drop in the sensitivity of bank lending to changes in interest rates owes much to the ever increasing share of personal lending in total loan demand.

The banks have done everything possible to encourage this lending via an aggressive campaign which has been very successful. Interest rates - as a result of changes in the structure of credit - have now become such a blunt instrument that any given change in loan demand requires a much bigger adjustment of interest rates than used to be the case.

This has led the authorities to place much greater emphasis on overfunding - borrowing more than the actual Budget deficit - to offset directly the impact of bank lending on the money supply.

Since the Bank of England now has the largest loan book of private sector debt of any bank in the world obtained at a not inconsiderable cost, as it borrows long to lend short - overfunding has gone too far.

Perhaps the main objection to overfunding, however, is that although it makes the money figures appear acceptable in the short run, there is a heavy long-term cost in the slow development of the corporate bond market. Interest rates are higher than they need be and it is cheaper for companies to borrow short.

If the authorities do curtail the amount of overfunding, the obvious temptation is to reduce the amount of funding by having another go at cutting the PSBR - especially as the

PSBR currently looks as if it will breach its target. Great care must be taken, however, in selecting the means to reduce borrowing if the mistakes of fiscal 1980/81 are not to be repeated.

The rise in income taxation (with the failure to index allowances) during fiscal 1980/81 reduced public borrowing but at the cost of exacerbating the bank lending problem as individuals borrowed from the banks to pay the higher tax and thereby protect their standard of living.

The problem remains, however, that it is still much easier to raise direct (indirect taxes are ruled out because of their impact on the RPI) than to cut expenditure: current expenditure is impossible to cut while capital expenditure may have been pruned too much already.

There is one tax which could be raised without too great an impact on loan demand, that is employees' national insurance contributions. The NIC is a regressive tax which hits lower income groups who have a relatively restricted access to bank loans. Perhaps it is more than just a coincidence that Mrs Thatcher emphasised throughout the election campaign that the NIC is not a tax, but an insurance premium paid to a fund which should be self-financing - at present the fund is far from self-sufficient as the Treasury contributes £2.5bn a year.

The restraint of overfunding is certainly a pre-condition for the take-off of the corporate bond market. If Mr Lawson the Chancellor wishes to go to the next general election claiming that the money supply is under control, it will be necessary for the corporate sector to borrow £5-6bn a year from the capital markets rather than from the bank.

Given the role of instruments currently available to him, such an outcome necessitates his acceptance of an overshoot of the monetary targets in the short term, as a means to medium term control.

Mike Osborne

The author is senior economist at Grieson Grant, the stockbrokers.

Authorized Units & Insurance Funds			
Unit Name	Current Price	Previous Price	% Change
1. American Mutual Fund	10.50	10.20	+2.94
2. British American Fund	12.10	11.80	+2.54
3. Canadian Fund	11.00	10.70	+2.79
4. European Fund	13.50	13.20	+2.27
5. Global Fund	14.00	13.70	+2.19
6. International Fund	15.00	14.70	+2.04
7. Japanese Fund	16.00	15.70	+1.91
8. Latin American Fund	17.00	16.70	+1.79
9. Middle East Fund	18.00	17.70	+1.69
10. Pacific Fund	19.00	18.70	+1.60
11. South American Fund	20.00	19.70	+1.52
12. Swiss Fund	21.00	20.70	+1.45
13. United States Fund	22.00	21.70	+1.38
14. World Fund	23.00	22.70	+1.32
15. Asian Fund	24.00	23.70	+1.26
16. European Fund	25.00	24.70	+1.21
17. Global Fund	26.00	25.70	+1.16
18. International Fund	27.00	26.70	+1.12
19. Japanese Fund	28.00	27.70	+1.08
20. Latin American Fund	29.00	28.70	+1.04
21. Middle East Fund	30.00	29.70	+1.00
22. Pacific Fund	31.00	30.70	+0.97
23. South American Fund	32.00	31.70	+0.94
24. Swiss Fund	33.00	32.70	+0.91
25. United States Fund	34.00	33.70	+0.88
26. World Fund	35.00	34.70	+0.85
27. Asian Fund	36.00	35.70	+0.83
28. European Fund	37.00	36.70	+0.81
29. Global Fund	38.00	37.70	+0.79
30. International Fund	39.00	38.70	+0.77
31. Japanese Fund	40.00	39.70	+0.75
32. Latin American Fund	41.00	40.70	+0.73
33. Middle East Fund	42.00	41.70	+0.71
34. Pacific Fund	43.00	42.70	+0.69
35. South American Fund	44.00	43.70	+0.68
36. Swiss Fund	45.00	44.70	+0.67
37. United States Fund	46.00	45.70	+0.66
38. World Fund	47.00	46.70	+0.64
39. Asian Fund	48.00	47.70	+0.63
40. European Fund	49.00	48.70	+0.61
41. Global Fund	50.00	49.70	+0.60
42. International Fund	51.00	50.70	+0.59
43. Japanese Fund	52.00	51.70	+0.58
44. Latin American Fund	53.00	52.70	+0.56
45. Middle East Fund	54.00	53.70	+0.56
46. Pacific Fund	55.00	54.70	+0.54
47. South American Fund	56.00	55.70	+0.53
48. Swiss Fund	57.00	56.70	+0.52
49. United States Fund	58.00	57.70	+0.51
50. World Fund	59.00	58.70	+0.50
51. Asian Fund	60.00	59.70	+0.49
52. European Fund	61.00	60.70	+0.48
53. Global Fund	62.00	61.70	+0.47
54. International Fund	63.00	62.70	+0.46
55. Japanese Fund	64.00	63.70	+0.45
56. Latin American Fund	65.00	64.70	+0.44
57. Middle East Fund	66.00	65.70	+0.43
58. Pacific Fund	67.00	66.70	+0.42
59. South American Fund	68.00	67.70	+0.41
60. Swiss Fund	69.00	68.70	+0.40
61. United States Fund	70.00	69.70	+0.39
62. World Fund	71.00	70.70	+0.38
63. Asian Fund	72.00	71.70	+0.37
64. European Fund	73.00	72.70	+0.36
65. Global Fund	74.00	73.70	+0.35
66. International Fund	75.00	74.70	+0.34
67. Japanese Fund	76.00	75.70	+0.33
68. Latin American Fund	77.00	76.70	+0.32
69. Middle East Fund	78.00	77.70	+0.31
70. Pacific Fund	79.00	78.70	+0.30
71. South American Fund	80.00	79.70	+0.29
72. Swiss Fund	81.00	80.70	+0.28
73. United States Fund	82.00	81.70	+0.27
74. World Fund	83.00	82.70	+0.26
75. Asian Fund	84.00	83.70	+0.25
76. European Fund	85.00	84.70	+0.24
77. Global Fund	86.00	85.70	+0.23
78. International Fund	87.00	86.70	+0.22
79. Japanese Fund	88.00	87.70	+0.21
80. Latin American Fund	89.00	88.70	+0.20
81. Middle East Fund	90.00	89.70	+0.19
82. Pacific Fund	91.00	90.70	+0.18
83. South American Fund	92.00	91.70	+0.17
84. Swiss Fund	93.00	92.70	+0.16
85. United States Fund	94.00	93.70	+0.15
86. World Fund	95.00	94.70	+0.14
87. Asian Fund	96.00	95.70	+0.13
88. European Fund	97.00	96.70	+0.12
89. Global Fund	98.00	97.70	+0.11
90. International Fund	99.00	98.70	+0.10
91. Japanese Fund	100.00	99.70	+0.09
92. Latin American Fund	101.00	100.70	+0.08
93. Middle East Fund	102.00	101.70	+0.07
94. Pacific Fund	103.00	102.70	+0.06
95. South American Fund	104.00	103.70	+0.05
96. Swiss Fund	105.00	104.70	+0.04
97. United States Fund	106.00	105.70	+0.03
98. World Fund	107.00	106.70	+0.02
99. Asian Fund	108.00	107.70	+0.01
100. European Fund	109.00	108.70	+0.00























## Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

## BBC 1

6.00 *Context AM*: News headlines, sport, traffic and weather information available to everybody, telecast Owners or not.

6.30 *Breakfast Time*: Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 8.00 and 8.30; regional news at 8.45, 9.15, 9.45 and 10.15; Sport at 8.45, 9.15, 9.45 and 10.15; Keep fit between 8.45 and 9.00; Television (7.15-7.30); Gardening (7.30-7.45); Morning papers (7.45 and 8.30); Horoscope (8.30-8.45); Food and Cooking (8.45-9.00); Close down at 9.00.

11.00 *For Schools*, Colleges: Maths Games (1). Close down at 11.15.

1.00 *News* with Richard Whitmore and Sandi Marshall. 1.27 *Financial Report*. And titled news headlines. 1.30 *Postman Pat*. 2.02 *For Schools*, Colleges: James is Our Brother.

2.30 *International Tennis*: Live coverage of the semi-finals play in the BMW Championships from Devonshire Park, Eastbourne. It continues on BBC during the afternoon, with highlights on BBC2 tonight at 11.55.

3.55 *Play School* (see BBC2, 10.15am). 4.20 *The New Schmoes*: cartoon. 4.40 *Roger and Co* with ventriloquist Ward Allen and Ken Wood (7.45). 4.55 *Newsworld Extra* with John Craven and Paul McDowell.

5.05 *Hunter's Gold*: Episode 5 of this drama series set in the New Zealand goldfields of the 1890s (7.55). 5.30 *Robbers*.

5.40 *News* with Richard Whitmore; 6.00 *South East* at 6.00 and 6.15; *Midweek* on the eve of the La Mans endurance race. *Nationwide* features the story of Steve O'Rourke, manager of the Pink Floyd, and the British-built *Enka* Aston Martin in which he has invested some £250,000 of his own cash.

6.50 *Duffy Duck*: cartoon.

7.00 *The Good Life*: The Goods (Richard Briers and Felicity Kendal) persuade Margo (Penelope Keith) to go with them to evening classes to the delight of Jerry (Paul Eddington). The short-lived is, however, to be short-lived (7).

7.30 *Odd One Out*: Word, music and picture game, conducted with many a merry quip by Paul Daniels.

8.00 *The Time of Your Life*: The comedian (and, lately, straight actor) Norman Wisdom explains why Christmas 1953 proved to be a turning point in his life. Other famous people also look back at that same year, and recall special memories. (See Choice).

8.30 *Emery*: The comedy thriller Jack of Diamonds continues, with private eye Bernie Wainwright (the late Dick Emery) still on the trail of the hidden diamonds. This is episode three.

9.00 *News* with Michael Buerk. And weather prospects.

9.25 *Gegney and Leacey*: The two women police officers and their charms are looking forward to getting away for the Christmas Eve celebrations - but the fun fades when a "Santa Claus" is arrested.

10.15 *A Family Band*: Roy Castle introduces The Paynes from Orkney and The Taylors from Hayes. 10.45 *News*.

10.50 *Film Talk*: Baby (1972) Comedy drama, with Kiel Martin and Mel Stewart as the two confidence tricksters who trick an elderly man out of 10,000 dollars not realising that his nephew is a Mafia boss. Directed by Larry Yust. Ends at 12.25am.

Sports coverage could be disrupted, or cancelled, through an industrial dispute.

## TV-am

6.25 *Good Morning Britain* (presenters Anne Diamond and Nick Owen). Includes news at 6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00 and 8.30; Keith Mitchell at 6.30; Carleton at 6.45; David Rappaport and the morning papers at 7.00; Sport at 7.45; Pop (Roman Holiday) at 7.50; Fantasy Time (Tony Blackburn) at 8.05; Television at 8.30; Diet with Diana Dora at 8.45; Checkout at 8.55; Close down at 9.25.

## ITV/LONDON

8.25 *Thames News Headlines*: 9.30 *For Schools*: Roads, rivers, canals. 9.55 *Insects*: 10.15 *More Warts*? 10.35 *French Programme*: 10.58 *Brill*: 11.15 *At the seashore*: 11.30 *Local current affairs*: 11.45 *Wood* (for the hard of hearing).

12.00 *Topper's Tales* with the late Julian Orchard (7.12.10). *Rainbow*: 12.30 *Do It Yourself*: Household hints for the adventurous woman. Steam-cleaning carpets and beautifying the bathroom.

1.00 *News*: 1.20 *Thames area news*: 1.30 *About Britain*: JR Black. A programme celebrating the first 100 years of the Jack Russell terrier. 2.00 *Best Sellers*: Condominium... When the Hurricane Struck. Part 2 of this adventure yarn about a badly-built apartment block in the path of a hurricane (7).

3.50 *Cartoon Time*: 4.00 *Children's ITV*: *Rainbow* (7.42.10). *Duffy Duck*: cartoon. 4.25 *Animals in Action*: Gardens of Corn. Exotic fish that live on the reefs. 4.50 *Freemantle*: featuring the work of 13-year-old wildlife artist John Lee Payne, from Borrow-Kennedy. Also, a young Blackpool magician Glenn Kinn.

5.15 *Make Me Laugh*: Chuckle contest involving Kenny Smith, Andrew O'Connor and Cheese 'n' Onion.

5.45 *News*: 6.00 *The 6 o'Clock Show* with Michael Aspel and Janet Street-Porter.

7.00 *Family Fortunes*: Quiz, with the Cowperthwaites from Plymouth taking on the Blyths from Acconington. With Bob Monkhouse.

7.30 *The Bouncer*: Repeat screening of the comedy series co-starring as brothers-in-law Peter Bowles and George Cole. The Bowles character has just served a jail sentence for embezzlement (7).

8.00 *Hawaii Five O*: What lies behind a defector's request for asylum? McGarrett finds out.

9.00 *The Gentle Touch*: Menace. Detective Inspector Maggie Forbes (Jill Gascoigne) is called in to investigate the blackmailing of a successful businessman and JP (Joss Ackland) (7).

9.30 *News* with Michael Buerk. And weather prospects.

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John Stride and Rula Lenska

Wild horses would not drag from me the nature of the denuement of Hugh Jones's two-handed CONVERSATIONS WITH A STRANGER (BBC 2, 9.25pm), especially as the BBC has also made a special plea for me to keep mum. None the less, the photograph which I reproduce on the left, which comes from the Corporation's publicity department, practically tells the story away. But enough of that. The conversation piece is set in an out-of-season (i.e. February) Bath, with a snowfall pending and an Italian patisserie in the background. (He John Stride) is a painter, somewhat concerned about the performance of his reputation (the Rula Lenska), first spotted by him (and us) across a mound of sticky mud, proclaims herself Italian, pretending she has

## CHOICE

no English so that, she says, she can keep would-be lovers at bay. The apparent contradiction between this odd way of carrying on and her own assertion that "a woman can feel safe in Bath", offers another clue to the outcome of this literary encounter which, like some Shavian exchanges that it echoes, goes on just that bit too long.

Primarily a salute to Norman Wisdom and his first film, THE TIME OF YOUR LIFE (BBC 1, 8.00pm), is a hugely enjoyable mélange of things 1953: everything from Molly Parkin at the shocking Chelsea Arts Ball (1.10pm), Bill and Ben the Flowerpot Men (all studio trickery exposed at last), killer smog, Beverly

## Sisters, and Mr Wisdom himself, in nerve-rackingly good form.

Radio highlights: Michael Bakewell's assessment of the poet John Cowper Powys. ALL OR NOTHING (Radio 3, 8.00pm) includes extracts from some of his quite extraordinary love letters, read by Robert Stephens... The performance of Holst's The Planets (Radio 3, 10.00pm) is of the version the composer himself made for two pianos. The performers: Richard Markham and David Nettie... Stravinsky's The Rite of Spring is among the works played by the Bavarian Radio SO in tonight's concert from Munich (Radio 3, 8.25pm). The all-Bethoven first half (starting at 7.15) includes Martin Argenta playing the Piano Concerto No 3. Seiji Ozawa conducts.

## Radio 1

6.30 *David Hamilton* including 4.02, 4.30 Sports Desk. 6.00 John Dunne including 6.45, 6.55, 7.05, 7.15, 7.25, 7.35, 7.45, 7.55, 8.05, 8.15, 8.25, 8.35, 8.45, 8.55, 9.05, 9.15, 9.25, 9.35, 9.45, 9.55, 10.05, 10.15, 10.25, 10.35, 10.45, 10.55, 11.05, 11.15, 11.25, 11.35, 11.45, 11.55, 12.05, 12.15, 12.25, 12.35, 12.45, 12.55, 1.05, 1.15, 1.25, 1.35, 1.45, 1.55, 2.05, 2.15, 2.25, 2.35, 2.45, 2.55, 3.05, 3.15, 3.25, 3.35, 3.45, 3.55, 4.05, 4.15, 4.25, 4.35, 4.45, 4.55, 5.05, 5.15, 5.25, 5.35, 5.45, 5.55, 6.05, 6.15, 6.25, 6.35, 6.45, 6.55, 7.05, 7.15, 7.25, 7.35, 7.45, 7.55, 8.05, 8.15, 8.25, 8.35, 8.45, 8.55, 9.05, 9.15, 9.25, 9.35, 9.45, 9.55, 10.05, 10.15, 10.25, 10.35, 10.45, 10.55, 11.05, 11.15, 11.25, 11.35, 11.45, 11.55, 12.05, 12.15, 12.25, 12.35, 12.45, 12.55, 1.05, 1.15, 1.25, 1.35, 1.45, 1.55, 2.05, 2.15, 2.25, 2.35, 2.45, 2.55, 3.05, 3.15, 3.25, 3.35, 3.45, 3.55, 4.05, 4.15, 4.25, 4.35, 4.45, 4.55, 5.05, 5.15, 5.25, 5.35, 5.45, 5.55, 6.05, 6.15, 6.25, 6.35, 6.45, 6.55, 7.05, 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**Historical landmark: Somme veteran Ernest Deighton follows the line of a British trench at Delville Wood**

## by Alan Hamilton

To those born long after,  
Hell is difficult to picture on

Mr Ernest Deighton, now 89, was a marksman in the King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry who attacked in the first wave on the first day of the battle, July 1. Nearly 20,000 men died on that day. Ernest was wounded in the

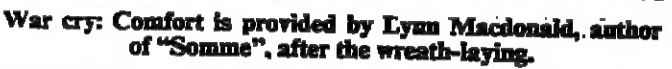
Charlie lies in the next row to Roland Leighton, fiancé of Vera Brittan.

Hell is a place none of them has ever forgotten. They recall bodies blackened and bloated, infested with bluebottles, after weeks in the sun because they could not be retrieved from No

Some ground to a halt on November 13, 1916, more than 150,000 Allied men lay dead, and more than 300,000 had been maimed or wounded. In one small part of the line, the armies of the Kaiser had been pushed back rather less than four miles.

**Photograph and Andropov**  
acclaimed: page 5

Without explicitly expressing his support for the Solidarity supporters at bay, his backing was none the less clear enough to the audience. By quoting extensively from the late intimate, Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński's prison notebooks, he drew home the message.

[illegible]